



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| <b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b><br><br><b>G01N 33/53</b>   | <b>A2</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/30157</b><br><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 17 June 1999 (17.06.99)   |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/26127<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 9 December 1998 (09.12.98)<br><br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>60/069,155           9 December 1997 (09.12.97)   US<br>60/069,687           12 December 1997 (12.12.97)   US<br><br><b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION [US/US]; 320 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 (US).<br><br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> KLAGSBRUN, Michael [US/US]; 22 Berwick Road, Newton, MA 02159 (US). SOKER, Shay [IL/US]; 92 Beals Street, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). MIAO, Hua-Quan [CN/US]; Apartment 8, 50 Babcock Street, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). TAKASHIMA, Seiji [JP/JP]; 1st dept. of Internal Medicine, Osaka University School of Medicine, 2-2, Yamadoaka Suita, Osaka 565-0871 (JP).<br><br><b>(74) Agents:</b> RESNICK, David, S. et al.; Peabody & Brown, 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110-1832 (US). |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AU, CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i> |
| <b>(54) Title:</b> NEUROPILINS AND USE THEREOF IN METHODS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF CANCER<br><br><b>(57) Abstract</b><br><br><p>The present invention relates to VEGF receptors (VEGFR) and neuropilins such as VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 that are associated with metastatic potential of a malignant cell and their use in the diagnosis and prognosis of cancer. Preferred ones are VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 but any neuropilin or VEGFR, where the constituents share at least about 85 % homology with either of the above VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 can be used. More preferably, such constituent shares at least 90 % homology. Still more preferably, each constituent shares at least 95 % homology.</p>   |           |   |

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## NEUROPILINS AND USE THEREOF IN METHODS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF CANCER

### STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

The work described herein was supported, in part, by National Institute of Health grants CA37392 and CA45548. The U.S. Government has certain rights to the invention.

### 5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides methods for the diagnosis and prognosis of cancer, particularly metastatic cancer.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Cancer, its development and treatment is a major health concern. The standard treatments available are few and directed to specific types of cancer, and provide no absolute guarantee of success. Most treatments rely on an approach that involves killing off rapidly growing cells in the hope that rapidly growing cancerous cells will succumb, either to the treatment, or at least be sufficiently reduced in numbers to  
15 allow the body's system to eliminate the remainder. However most, of these treatments are non-specific to cancer cells and adversely effect non-malignant cells. Many cancers although having some phenotype relationship are quite diverse. Yet, what treatment works most effectively for one cancer may not be the best means for treating another cancer. Consequently, an appreciation of the severity of the condition  
20 must be made before beginning many therapies. In order to most effective, these treatments require not only an early detection of the malignancy, but an appreciation of the severity of the malignancy. Currently, it can be difficult to distinguish cells at a molecular level as it relates to effect on treatment. Thus, methods of being able to screen malignant cells and better understand their disease state are desirable.

25 While different forms of cancer have different properties, one factor which many cancers share is that they can metastasize. Until such time as metastasis occurs,

a tumor, although it may be malignant, is confined to one area of the body. This may cause discomfort and/or pain, or even lead to more serious problems including death, but if it can be located, it may be surgically removed and, if done with adequate care, be treatable. However, once metastasis sets in, cancerous cells have invaded the body and while surgical resection may remove the parent tumor, this does not address other tumors. Only chemotherapy, or some particular form of targeting therapy, then stands any chance of success.

The process of tumor metastasis is a multistage event involving local invasion and destruction of intercellular matrix, intravasation into blood vessels, lymphatics or other channels of transport, survival in the circulation, extravasation out of the vessels in the secondary site and growth in the new location (Fidler, et al., *Adv. Cancer Res.* 28, 149-250 (1978), Liotta, et al., *Cancer Treatment Res.* 40, 223-238 (1988), Nicolson, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 948, 175-224 (1988) and Zetter, *N. Eng. J. Med.* 322, 605-612 (1990)). Success in establishing metastatic deposits requires tumor cells to be able to accomplish these steps sequentially. Common to many steps of the metastatic process is a requirement for motility. The enhanced movement of malignant tumor cells is a major contributor to the progression of the disease toward metastasis. Increased cell motility has been associated with enhanced metastatic potential in animal as well as human tumors (Hosaka, et al., *Gann* 69, 273-276 (1978) and Haemmerlin, et al., *Int. J. Cancer* 27, 603-610 (1981)).

Identifying factors that are associated with onset of tumor metastasis is extremely important. In addition, to using such factors for diagnosis and prognosis, those factors are an important site for identifying new compounds that can be used for treatment and as a target for treatment identifying new modes of treatment such as inhibition of metastasis is highly desirable.

Tumor angiogenesis is essential for both primary tumor expansion and metastatic tumor spread, and angiogenesis itself requires ECM degradation (Blood et al., *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1032:89-118 (1990)). Thus, malignancy is a systemic disease in which interactions between the neoplastic cells and their environment play a crucial role during evolution of the pathological process (Fidler, I. J., *Cancer Metastasis Rev.* 5:29-49 (1986)).

There is mounting evidence that VEGF may be a major regulator of angiogenesis (reviewed in Ferrara, et al., *Endocr. Rev.*, 13, 18-32 (1992); Klagsbrun, et al., *Curr. Biol.*, 3, 699-702 (1993); Ferrara, et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 161, 851-858 (1989) ). VEGF was initially purified from the conditioned media of folliculostellate cells (Ferrara, et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 161, 851-858 (1989)) and from a variety of tumor cell lines (Myoken, et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 88:5819-5823 (1991); Plouet, et al., *EMBO. J.*, 8:3801-3806 (1991)). VEGF was found to be identical to vascular permeability factor, a regulator of blood vessel permeability that was purified from the conditioned medium of U937 cells at the same time (Keck, et al., *Science*, 246:1309-1312 (1989)). VEGF is a specific mitogen for endothelial cells (EC) *in vitro* and a potent angiogenic factor *in vivo*. The expression of VEGF is up-regulated in tissue undergoing vascularization during embryogenesis and the female reproductive cycle (Brier, et al., *Development*, 114:521-532 (1992); Shweiki, et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 91:2235-2243 (1993)). High levels of VEGF are expressed in various types of tumors, but not in normal tissue, in response to tumor-induced hypoxia (Shweiki, et al., *Nature* 359:843-846 (1992); Dvorak et al., *J. Exp. Med.*, 174:1275-1278 (1991); Plate, et al., *Cancer Res.*, 53:5822-5827; Ikea, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 270:19761-19766 (1986)). Treatment of tumors with monoclonal antibodies directed against VEGF resulted in a dramatic reduction in tumor mass due to the suppression of tumor angiogenesis (Kim, et al., *Nature*, 382:841-844 (1993)). VEGF appears to play a principle role in many pathological states and processes related to neovascularization. Regulation of VEGF expression in affected tissues could therefore be key in treatment or prevention of VEGF induced neovascularization/angiogenesis.

VEGF exists in a number of different isoforms that are produced by alternative splicing from a single gene containing eight exons (Ferrara, et al., *Endocr. Rev.*, 13:18-32 (1992); Tischer, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 806:11947-11954 (1991); Ferrara, et al., *Trends Cardio Med.*, 3:244-250 (1993); Polterak, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 272:7151-7158 (1997)). Human VEGF isoforms consists of monomers of 121, 145, 165, 189, and 206 amino acids, each capable of making an active homodimer (Polterak et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 272:7151-7158 (1997); Houck, et al., *Mol. Endocrinol.*, 8:1806-1814

(1991)). The VEGF<sub>121</sub> and VEGF<sub>165</sub> isoforms are the most abundant. VEGF<sub>121</sub> is the only VEGF isoforms that does not bind to heparin and is totally secreted into the culture medium. VEGF<sub>165</sub> is functionally different than VEGF<sub>121</sub> in that it binds to heparin and cell surface heparin sulfate proteoglycans (HSPGs) and is only partially released into the culture medium (Houck, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 247:28031-28037 (1992); Park, et al., *Mol. Biol. Chem.*, 4:1317-1326 (1993)). The remaining isoforms are entirely associated with cell surface and extracellular matrix HSPGs (Houck, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 247:28031-28037 (1992); Park, et al., *Mol. Biol. Chem.*, 4:1317-1326 (1993)).

VEGF receptor tyrosine kinases, KDR/Flk-1 and/or Flt-1, are mostly expressed by EC (Terman, et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 187:1579-1586 (1992); Shibuya, et al., *Oncogene*, 5:519-524 (1990); De Vries, et al., *Science*, 265:989-991 (1992); Gitay-Goran, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 267:6003-6096 (1992); Jakeman, et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 89:244-253 (1992)). It appears that VEGF activities such as mitogenicity, chemotaxis, and induction of morphological changes are mediated by KDR/Flk-1 but not Flt-1, even though both receptors undergo phosphorylation upon binding of VEGF (Millauer, et al., *Cell*, 72:835-846 (1993); Waltenberger, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 269:26988-26995 (1994); Seetharam, et al., *Oncogene*, 10:135-147 (1995); Yoshida, et al., *Growth Factors*, 7:131-138 (1996)). Recently, Soker et al., identified a new VEGF receptor which is expressed on EC and various tumor-derived cell lines such as breast cancer-derived MDA-MB-231 (231) cells (Soker, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271:5761-5767 (1996)). This receptor requires the VEGF isoform to contain the portion encoded by exon 7. For example, although both VEGF<sub>121</sub> and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R bind to KDR/Flk-1 and Flt-1, only VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to the new receptor.

Thus, this is an isoform-specific receptor and has been named the VEGF<sub>165</sub> receptor (VEGF<sub>165</sub>R). It will also bind the 189 and 206 isoforms. VEGF<sub>165</sub>R has a molecular mass of approximately 130 kDa, and it binds VEGF<sub>165</sub> with a Kd of about  $2 \times 10^{-10}$ M, compared with approximately  $5 \times 10^{-12}$ M for KDR/Flk-1. In structure-function analysis, it was shown directly that VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R via its exon 7-encoded domain which is absent in VEGF<sub>121</sub> (Soker, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271:5761-5767 (1996)). However, the function of the receptor was unclear.

Identifying the alterations in gene expression which are associated with malignant tumors, including those involved in tumor progression and angiogenesis, is clearly a prerequisite not only for a full understanding of cancer, but also to develop new rational therapies against cancer.

5           A further problem arises, in that the genes characteristic of cancerous cells are very often host genes being abnormally expressed. It is quite often the case that a particular protein marker for a given cancer while expressed in high levels in connection with that cancer is also expressed elsewhere throughout the body, albeit at reduced levels.

10           Prostatic carcinoma is the most prevalent form of cancer in males and the second leading cause of cancer death among older males (Boring, et al., *Cancer J. Clinicians*, 7-26 (1994)). Clinically, radical prostatectomy offers a patient with locally contained disease an excellent chance for cure. Unfortunately, if diagnosed after metastases are established, prostatic cancer is a fatal disease for which there is no  
15           effective treatment to significantly increase survival. Recent advances in prostatic cancer diagnosis has allowed the earlier detection of human prostate cancer by use of the PSA test (Catalona, et al., *J. Urol.*, 151, 1283-1290 (1994)). Unfortunately, this early detection has not been accompanied by an improvement in determining which tumors may progress to the metastatic stage (Cookson, et al., *J. Urology* 154, 1070-  
20           1073 (1995) and Aspinall, et al., *J. Urology* 154, 622-628 (1995)). Since many individuals having prostate cancer are not adversely effected by the cancer, considerable controversy has arisen as to the use of such tests. Thus, methods for early detection and early appreciation of the potential for or of the severity of the cancer, that can be taken into account in treatment of, for example, metastatic disease,  
25           as well as treatment of such diseases are desirable.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

          We have isolated a cDNA encoding the VEGF<sub>165</sub> R gene (SEQ ID NO: 1) and have deduced the amino acid sequence of the receptor (SEQ ID NO:2) We have  
30           discovered that this novel VEGF receptor is structurally unrelated to Flt-1 or

KDR/Flk-1 and is expressed not only by endothelial cells but by non-endothelial cells, including surprisingly tumor cells.

In ascertaining the function of the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R we have further discovered that this receptor has been identified as a cell surface mediator of neuronal cell guidance and called neuropilin-1. Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90:753-762 (1997). We refer to the  
5 receptor as VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

In addition to the expression cloning of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA we isolated another human cDNA clone whose predicted amino acid sequence was 47% homologous to that of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and over 90% homologous to rat neuropilin-2  
10 (NP-2) which was recently cloned (Kolodkin, et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). NP-2 binds members of the collapsin/semaphorin family selectively (Chen, et al., *Neuron* 19, 547-559 (1997)).

Our results indicate that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 are expressed by both endothelial and tumor cells. (Fig. 19) We have shown that endothelial cells expressing  
15 both KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 respond with increased chemotaxis towards VEGF<sub>165</sub>, not VEGF<sub>121</sub>, when compared to endothelial cells expressing KDR alone. While not wishing to be bound by theory, we believe that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 functions in endothelial cells to mediate cell motility as a co-receptor for KDR.

We have also shown in the Boyden chamber motility assay that VEGF<sub>165</sub>  
20 stimulates 231 breast carcinoma cell motility in a dose-response manner (Fig 15A). VEGF<sub>121</sub> had no effect motility of these cells (Fig 15B). Since tumor cells such as, 231 cells, do not express the VEGF receptors, KDR or Flt-1, while not wishing to be bound by theory, we believe that tumor cells are directly responsive to VEGF<sub>165</sub> via VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

25 We have also analyzed two variants of Dunning rat prostate carcinoma cells, AT2.1 cells, which are of low motility and low metastatic potential, and AT3.1 cells, which are highly motile, and metastatic. Cross-linking and Northern blot analysis show that AT3.1 cells express abundant VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, capable of binding VEGF<sub>165</sub>, while AT2.1 cells don't express VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Fig 18). Immunostaining  
30 of tumor sections confirmed the expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in AT3.1, but not AT2.1 tumors (Fig 17). Additionally, immunostaining showed that in subcutaneous



AT3.1 and PC3 tumors, the tumor cells expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 were found preferentially at the invading front of the tumor/dermis boundary (Fig 17).

Furthermore, stable clones of AT2.1 cells overexpressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 had enhanced motility in the Boyden chamber assay. These results indicate that

- 5 VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 expression on tumor cells is associated with the motile, metastatic phenotype.

These results indicate that enhanced transcripts (mRNA) and expression of the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 receptors have a high correlation to disease state in a number of cancers, such as prostate, hemangioendothelioma and breast, particularly  
10 metastatic cancers. Accordingly, assaying for enhanced levels of transcript or gene product can be used in not only a diagnostic manner, but in a prognostic manner for particular cancers. Additionally, by blocking such receptors or inhibiting their occurrence, one can inhibit metastasis.

The present invention provides a method of diagnosing cancer, especially  
15 prostate cancer, breast cancer, and hemangioendothelioma in a patient by measuring levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a biological specimen obtained from the patient. Levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in the sample greater than a base line level for that type of specimen is indicative of cancer. Biological specimens include, for example, blood, tissue, serum, stool, urine, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid and supernatant from  
20 cell lysate. The determination of base lines and comparison levels is by standard modes of analysis based upon the present disclosure.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of prognosis in an individual having cancer, the method comprising:

- a. obtaining a tumor sample from said individual;
- 25 b. measuring VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 amounts to obtain an VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 level in said sample;
- c. correlating said VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 levels with a baseline level; and correlating levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 higher than the baseline with an indication of unfavorable prognosis and levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 at the  
30 baseline or less with a favorable prognosis. VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA or protein may be measured to obtain VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 levels.

In accordance with the present invention, expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a tumor sample greater than a base line level for that particular tissue indicates a higher risk of tumor metastasis.

5 In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method for determining the metastatic potential of a tumor by measuring the level of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 expression in the tumor. Expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in said tumor greater than a base line level for that particular tissue indicates an increased metastatic potential.

10 In yet another embodiment, changes in condition can be monitored by comparing changes in VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 expression levels in the tumor in that subject over time.

In the methods of the present invention, levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 can be ascertained by measuring the protein directly or indirectly by measuring transcript (mRNA) encoding VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2. mRNA levels can be measured, for  
15 example, using an RNA dependent polymerase chain reaction, e.g., reverse transcriptase PCR or Northern blot analysis. DNA chip technology may also be used to measure mRNA levels.

Base line levels can readily be determined by measuring levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in sample of disease free individuals.

20 The present invention also provides of a method for measuring VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 levels in non-neuronal tissues which comprises the steps of:

- a. contacting a biological specimen with an antibody or antibody fragment which selectively binds VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2, and
- b. detecting whether said antibody or said antibody fragment is bound by said  
25 sample and thereby measuring the levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2.

In still another embodiment of this invention, the receptor can serve as a target for compounds that disrupt its function. Such compounds include, for example, VEGF antagonists, compounds that bind to NP-1 or NP-2 and antibodies that specifically binds the receptor at a region that inhibits receptor function. For example, one can add  
30 an effective amount of a compound that binds to NP-1 to disrupt receptor and thus inhibit metastasis. In another embodiment, one can use such VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2

cells in an assay to discover compounds that bind to or otherwise interact with these receptors in order to discover compounds that can be used to inhibit metastasis.

Other aspects of the invention are disclosed *infra*.

## 5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows purification of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R From 231 Cells.

<sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> (5 ng/ml) was bound and cross-linked to receptors on 231 cells and analyzed by SDS PAGE and autoradiography (lane 1). VEGF<sub>165</sub>R was purified by Con A and VEGF<sub>165</sub> affinity column chromatography and analyzed by SDS-PAGE  
10 and silver stain (lane 2). Two prominent bands were detected (arrows) and N-terminally sequenced separately. Their N-terminal 18 amino acid sequences are shown to the right of the arrows. The published N-terminal sequences of human and mouse neuropilin (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.*, 29, 1-17 (1995); He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 1997) are shown below (SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6).

15

Figures 2A and 2B show isolation of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R cDNA by Expression Cloning. Photomicrographs (dark field illumination) of COS 7 cells binding <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub>. <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> was bound to transfected COS 7 cells which were then washed, fixed, and overlaid with photographic emulsion that was developed as described in the  
20 example, *infra*.

Figure 2A shows COS 7 cells were transfected with a primary plasmid pool (#55 of the 231 cell library) representing approximately 3 x 10<sup>3</sup> clones and one COS 7 cell binding <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> in the first round of screening is shown.

Figure 2 shows several COS 7 cells transfected with a single positive cDNA  
25 clone (A2) binding <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> after the third round of screening.

Figure 3 shows the Deduced Amino Acid Sequence of Human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (SEQ ID NO:3). The deduced 923 amino acid sequence of the open reading frame of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, clone A2 (full insert size of 6.5 kb) is shown. The putative signal peptide sequence (amino acids 1-21) and the putative transmembrane region (amino  
30 acids 860-883) are in boxes. The amino acid sequence obtained by N-terminal amino

acid sequencing (Figure 3, amino acids 22-39) is underlined. The arrow indicates where the signal peptide has been cleaved and removed, based on comparison of the N-terminal sequence of purified VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and the cDNA sequence. The sequence of human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 reported here differs from that reported by He et al. (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997)) in that we find Lys<sub>26</sub> rather than Glu<sub>26</sub>, and Asp<sub>855</sub> rather than Glu<sub>855</sub>. Lys<sub>26</sub> and Asp<sub>855</sub> are found, however, in mouse and rat VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Kwakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995); He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 1997).

10        Figure 4 shows the Comparison of the Deduced Amino Acid Sequence of Human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (SEQ ID NO:2) and NP-2 (SEQ ID NO:4). The deduced open reading frame amino acid sequences of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 are aligned using the DNASIS program. Amino acids that are identical in both open reading frames are shaded. The overall homology between the two sequences is 43%.

15        Figure 5 shows a Northern Blot Analysis of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 Expression in Human EC and Tumor-Derived Cell Lines. Total RNA samples prepared from HUVEC (lane 1) and tumor-derived breast carcinoma, prostate carcinoma and melanoma cell lines as indicated (lanes 2-8) were resolved on a 1% agarose gel and  
20        blotted onto a GeneScreen nylon membrane. The membrane was probed with <sup>32</sup>P-labeled VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA and exposed to X-ray film. Equal RNA loading was demonstrated by ethidium bromide staining of the gel prior to blotting. A major species of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA of approximately 7 kb was detected in several of the cell lines.

25        Figure 6 shows a Northern Blot Analysis of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR mRNA in Adult Human Tissues. A pre-made Northern blot membrane containing multiple samples of human mRNA (Clontech) was probed with <sup>32</sup>P-labeled VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (top) as described in Fig 5, and then stripped and reprobed with <sup>32</sup>P-labeled  
30        KDR cDNA (bottom).

Figures 7A and 7B show a Scatchard Analysis of VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1. Figure 7A. Increasing amounts of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> (0.1-50 ng/ml) were added to subconfluent cultures of PAE cells transfected with human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (PAE/NP-1 cells) in 48 well dishes. Non-specific binding was determined by competition with a 200-fold excess of unlabeled VEGF<sub>165</sub>. After binding, the cells were washed, lysed and the cell-associated radioactivity was determined using a γ counter.

Figure 7B. The binding data shown in Figure 7A were analyzed by the method of Scatchard, and a best fit plot was obtained with the LIGAND program (Munson and Rodbard, 1980). PAE/NP-1 cells express approximately 3 X 10<sup>5</sup> VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding sites per cell and bind <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> with a K<sub>d</sub> of 3.2 X 10<sup>-10</sup> M.

Figure 8 shows cross-linking of VEGF<sub>165</sub> and VEGF<sub>121</sub> to PAE cells Expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and/or KDR. <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> (5 ng/ml) (lanes 1-6) or <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub> (10 ng/ml) (lanes 7-10) were bound to subconfluent cultures of HUVEC (lane 1), PC3 (lane 2), PAE (lanes 3 and 7), a clone of PAE cells transfected with human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (PAE/NP-1) (lanes 4 and 8), a clone of PAE cells transfected with KDR (PAE/KDR) (lanes 5 and 9), and a clone of PAE/KDR cells transfected with human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (PAE/KDR/NP-1) (lanes 6 and 10). The binding was carried out in the presence of 1 μg/ml heparin. At the end of a 2 hour incubation, each <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF isoform was chemically cross-linked to the cell surface. The cells were lysed and proteins were resolved by 6% SDS-PAGE. The polyacrylamide gel was dried and exposed to X-ray film. Solid arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF and KDR, open arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

Figure 9 shows cross linking of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to PAE/KDR Cells Co-expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 Transiently. PAE/KDR cells were transfected with pCPhygro or pCPhyg-NP-1 plasmids as described in "Experimental Procedures", and grown for 3 days in 6 cm dishes. <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> (5 ng/ml) was bound and cross linked to parental

PAE/KDR cells (lane 1), to PAE/KDR cells transfected with pCPhygro vector control (V) (lane 2), to PAE/KDR cells transfected with pCPhygro- VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 plasmids (VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1) (lane 3), and to HUVEC (lane 4). ). The binding was carried out in the presence of 1 µg/ml heparin. The cells were lysed and proteins were  
 5 resolved by 6% SDS-PAGE as in Figure 8. Solid arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> and KDR. Open arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

Figure 10 shows inhibition of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1  
 10 interferes with its binding to KDR. <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> (5 ng/ml) was bound to subconfluent cultures of PAE transfected with human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (PAE/NP-1) (lanes 1 and 2), PAE/KDR cells (lanes 3 and 4), and PAE/KDR cells transfected with human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA (PAE/KDR/NP-1) (lanes 5 and 6) in 35 mm dishes. The binding was carried out in the presence (lanes 2, 4, and 6) or the  
 15 absence (lanes 1, 3, and 5) of 25 µg/ml GST-Ex 7+8. Heparin (1 µg/ml) was added to each dish. At the end of a 2 hour incubation, <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> was chemically cross-linked to the cell surface. The cells were lysed and proteins were resolved by 6% SDS-PAGE as in Figure 9. Solid arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> and KDR, open arrows denote radiolabeled complexes containing <sup>125</sup>I-  
 20 VEGF<sub>165</sub> and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

Figures 11A-C show a model for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 modulation of VEGF<sub>165</sub> Binding to KDR. 11A.Cells expressing KDR alone. 11B.Cells co-expressing KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1. 11C.Cells co-expressing KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in the  
 25 presence of GST- Ex 7+8 fusion protein.

A single KDR receptor or a KDR-VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 pair is shown in top portion. An expanded view showing several receptors is shown in the bottom portion. VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to KDR via exon 4 and to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 via exon 7 (Keyt et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* 271,5638-5646 (1996b); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767  
 30 (1996)). A rectangular VEGF<sub>165</sub> molecule represents a suboptimal conformation that doesn't bind to KDR efficiently while a rounded VEGF<sub>165</sub> molecule represents one

that fits better into a binding site. In cells expressing KDR alone, VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to KDR in a sub-optimal manner. In cells co-expressing KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, the binding efficiency of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR is enhanced. It may be that the presence of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 increases the concentration of VEGF<sub>165</sub> on the cell surface, thereby  
5 presenting more growth factor to KDR. Alternatively, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 may induce a change in VEGF<sub>165</sub> conformation that allows better binding to KDR, or both might occur. In the presence of GST-Ex 7+8, VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is competitively inhibited and its binding to KDR reverts to a sub-optimal manner.

10 Figure 12 shows the human NP-2 amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4).

Figures 13A and 13B show the human NP-2 DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:3).

Figures 14A, 14B and 14C show the nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and amino  
15 acid sequences (SEQ ID NO:2) of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

Figures 15A and 15B show VEGF<sub>165</sub> stimulation of MDA MB 231 cell motility. (Figure 15A) Dose response of VEGF<sub>165</sub> motility activity. (Figure 15B) Both VEGF<sub>165</sub> and bFGF stimulate motility but VEGF<sub>121</sub> does not.

20

Figures 16A, 16B and 16C show motility and neuropilin-1 expression of Dunning rat prostate carcinoma cell lines AT3.1 (high motility, high metastatic potential) and AT2.1 (low motility, low metastatic potential) cells. (Figure 16A) AT3.1 cells are more motile than AT2.1 cells in a Boyden chamber assay. (Figure  
25 16B) 125I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> cross-links neuropilin-1 on AT3.1 cells but does not cross-link to AT2.1 cells. (Figure 16C) AT3.1 but not AT2.1 cells express neuropilin-1, while both cell types express VEGF.

Figures 17A, 17B and 17C show immunostaining of (Figure 17A) a PC3  
30 subcutaneous tumor in a nude mouse, (Figure 17B) an AT3.1 tumor in a rat, (Figure 17C) an AT2.1 tumor in rat with anti-neuropilin-1 antibodies. Neuropilin

immunostaining is preferentially associated with PC3 and AT3.1 tumor cells at the tumor/dermis boundary. Some of these cells cluster around blood vessels. AT2.1 cells do not express neuropilin-1.

5           Figures 18A and 18B show overexpression of neuropilin-1 in AT2.1 cells. (Figure 18A) Western blot, (Figure 18B) motility activity. Three AT2.1 clones (lanes 4,5,6) express higher amounts of neuropilin-1 protein and are more motile compared to parental AT2.1 cells or AT2.1 vector (AT2.1/V) controls and approach AT3.1 cell neuropilin-1 levels and migration activity.

10

Figure 19 shows expression of NP-1, NP-2 and  $\beta$ -actin in cancer cell lines and endothelial cells using reverse transcriptase PCR following primers:

Human NP-1

Forward (328-351): 5' TTTCGCAACGATAAATGTGGCGAT 3' (SEQ ID NO:7)

15   Reverse (738-719): 5' TATCACTCCACTAGGTGTTG 3' (SEQ ID NO:8)

Human NP-2

Forward (513-532): 5' CCAACCAGAAGATTGTCCTC 3' (SEQ ID NO:9)

Reverse (1181-1162): 5' GTAGGTAGATGAGGCACTGA 3'. (SEQ ID NO:10)

20

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

We have discovered that there are VEGF receptors (VEGFR) and neuropilins such as VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 that are associated with metastatic potential of a malignant cell. Preferred ones are VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 but any neuropilin or  
25   VEGFR, where the constituents share at least about 85% homology with either of the above VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 can be used. More preferably, such constituent shares at least 90% homology. Still more preferably, each constituent shares at least 95% homology.

Homology is measured by means well known in the art. For example %  
30   homology can be determined by any standard algorithm used to compare homologies. These include, but are not limited to BLAST 2.0 such as BLAST 2.0.4 and i. 2.0.5 available from the NIH (See [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/newblast.html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/newblast.html)) (Altschul, S.F., et al. Nucleic Acids Res. 25: 3389-3402 (1997)) and DNASIS (Hitachi



Software Engineering America, Ltd.). These programs should preferably be set to an automatic setting such as the standard default setting for homology comparisons. As explained by the NIH, the scoring of gapped results tends to be more biologically meaningful than ungapped results.

- 5           For ease of reference, this disclosure will generally talk about VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 and/or homologs thereof but all teaching are applicable to the above-described homologs.

In another embodiment a VEGFR can be used as long as it binds to a sequence having at least 90%, more preferably 95% homology to exon 7 of VEGF<sub>165</sub>.

- 10           These VEGF receptors and neuropilins, e.g., VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2, are associated with both tumor metastases and angiogenesis. We have shown that expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 is upregulated in highly metastatic prostate cancer cell lines relative to poorly metastatic or nonmetastatic lines. Thus, expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and NP-2 can be used to determine metastatic potential. In  
15           addition, the receptor and the component provide a target for treatments to inhibit the metastasis process.

- Accordingly, the evaluation and comparison of levels of transcript (mRNA) or gene product, either normal or mutated, in non-neuronal tissue can be both diagnostic and prognostic of particular cancer. For example, an elevated level is indicative of a  
20           greater tendency for metastatic activity. Conversely, lower levels than certain baselines can also be used to indicate the metastatic potential of the tumor. Further, by monitoring a particular neoplastic growth over a period of time and comparing changes in level one can evaluate changes in metastatic activity.

- The present invention provides a method of diagnosing cancer, preferably  
25           prostate and breast cancer, in a patient by measuring levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a biological specimen obtained from the patient. Levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in the sample greater than a base line level is indicative of cancer. Baseline levels can readily be determined by measuring levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a sample of disease free individuals. Additionally, baselines can be obtained by  
30           measuring individuals having cancer over the course of the malignancy.

Biological specimens include, for example, blood, tissue, serum, stool, urine, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid and supernatant from cell lysate. Preferably, one uses tissue specimens. The determination of base lines and comparison levels is by standard modes of analysis based upon the present disclosure.

5           The present invention also provides a method of prognosis in an individual having cancer, preferable prostate, breast cancer and melanoma by measuring levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a tumor sample obtained from a patient to be tested. Expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in said tumor sample greater than a base line level for that particular tissue indicates a higher risk of tumor metastasis. This  
10 information can be used by the physician in determining the most effective course of treatment.

Changes in a patients condition can be monitored using the methods of the present invention by comparing changes in VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 expression levels in the tumor in that subject over time. For example, determining whether the level  
15 stabilizes or preferably declines.

The present invention further provides a method for determining the metastatic potential of a tumor by measuring the level of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 expression in the tumor. Expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in said tumor greater than a base line level for that particular tissue indicates an increased metastatic potential.

20           Standard detection techniques well known in the art for detecting RNA, DNA, proteins and peptides can readily be applied to detect VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 or its transcript to diagnose cancer, especially metastatic cancer or to confirm that a primary tumor has, or has not, reached a particular metastatic phase.

Such techniques may include detection with nucleotide probes or may  
25 comprise detection of the protein by, for example, antibodies or their equivalent. Preferably, the nucleotide probes hybridize to the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and SEQ ID NO:3 for NP-2. A VEGFR/NP-1 homolog has at least about 85% homology to the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:1, whereas a VEGFR/NP-2 homolog has at least about 85% homology to the amino acid  
30 sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:3.

Types of probe include cDNA, riboprobes, synthetic oligonucleotides and genomic probes. The type of probe used will generally be dictated by the particular situation, such as riboprobes for in situ hybridization, and cDNA for Northern blotting, for example. The most preferred probes are those which correspond to the cytoplasmic domain of the receptor. Most preferably, the probe is directed to nucleotide regions unique to the receptor. Detection of the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 encoding gene, per se, will be useful in screening for mutations associated with enhanced expression. Other forms of assays to detect targets more readily associated with levels of expression--transcripts and other expression products will generally be useful as well. The probes may be as short as is required to differentially recognize VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 mRNA transcripts, and may be as short as, for example, 15 bases, however, probes of at least 17 bases, more preferably 18 bases and still more preferably 20 bases are preferred.

A probe may also be reverse-engineered by one skilled in the art from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1) or SEQ ID NO:4 (NP-2). However use of such probes may be more limited than the native DNA sequence, as it will be appreciated that any one given reverse-engineered sequence will not necessarily hybridize well, or at all with any given complementary sequence reverse-engineered from the same peptide, owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code. This is a factor common in the calculations of those skilled in the art, and the degeneracy of any given sequence is frequently so broad as to yield a large number of probes for any one sequence.

The form of labeling of the probes may be any that is appropriate, such as the use of radioisotopes, for example, <sup>32</sup>P and <sup>35</sup>S. Labeling with radioisotopes may be achieved, whether the probe is synthesized chemically or biologically, by the use of suitably labeled bases. Other forms of labeling may include enzyme or antibody labeling such as is characteristic of ELISA.

Detection of RNA transcripts may be achieved by Northern blotting, for example, wherein a preparation of RNA is run on a denaturing agarose gel, and transferred to a suitable support, such as activated cellulose, nitrocellulose or glass or

nylon membranes. radiolabeled cDNA or RNA is then hybridized to the preparation, washed and analyzed by autoradiography.

In situ hybridization visualization may also be employed, wherein a radioactively labeled antisense cRNA probe is hybridized with a thin section of a biopsy sample, washed, cleaved with RNase and exposed to a sensitive emulsion for autoradiography. The samples may be stained with haematoxylin to demonstrate the histological composition of the sample, and dark field imaging with a suitable light filter shows up the developed emulsion. Non-radioactive labels such as digoxigenin may also be used.

Immunohistochemistry may be used to detect expression of human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in a biopsy sample. A suitable antibody is brought into contact with, for example, a thin layer of cells, washed, and then contacted with a second, labeled antibody. Labeling may be by enzyme, such as peroxidase, avidin or by radiolabelling. Chromogenic labels are generally preferable, as they can be detected under a microscope.

More generally preferred is to detect the protein by immunoassay, for example by ELISA or RIA, which can be extremely rapid. Thus, it is generally preferred to use antibodies, or antibody equivalents, to detect VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2.

It may not be necessary to label the substrate, provided that the product of the enzymatic process is detectable and characteristic in its own right (such as hydrogen peroxide for example). However, if it is necessary to label the substrate, then this may also comprise enzyme labeling, labeling with radioisotopes, antibody labeling, fluorescent marker labeling or any other suitable form which will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Antibodies may be prepared as described below, and used in any suitable manner to detect expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2. Antibody-based techniques include ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay) and RIA (radioimmunoassay). Any conventional procedures may be employed for such immunoassays. The procedures may suitably be conducted such that: a VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 standard is labeled with a radioisotope such as <sup>125</sup>I or <sup>35</sup>S, or an assayable enzyme, such as horseradish peroxidase or alkaline phosphatase and, together with the unlabelled

sample, is brought into contact with the corresponding antibody, whereon a second antibody is used to bind the first and radioactivity or the immobilized enzyme assayed (competitive assay); alternatively, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in the sample is allowed to react with the corresponding immobilized antibody, radioisotope- or  
5 enzyme-labeled anti-receptor antibody is allowed to react with the system and radioactivity or the enzyme assayed (ELISA-sandwich assay). Other conventional methods may also be employed as suitable.

The above techniques may be conducted essentially as a "one-step" or "two-step" assay. The "one-step" assay involves contacting antigen with immobilized  
10 antibody and, without washing, contacting the mixture with labeled antibody. The "two-step" assay involves washing before contacting the mixture with labeled antibody. Other conventional methods may also be employed as suitable.

Enzymatic and radio-labeling of receptor and/or the antibodies may be effected by conventional means. Such means will generally include covalent linking of the  
15 enzyme to the antigen or the antibody in question, such as by glutaraldehyde, specifically so as not to adversely affect the activity of the enzyme, by which is meant that the enzyme must still be capable of interacting with its substrate, although it is not necessary for all of the enzyme to be active, provided that enough remains active to permit the assay to be effected. Indeed, some techniques for binding enzyme are  
20 non-specific (such as using formaldehyde), and will only yield a proportion of active enzyme.

It is usually desirable to immobilize one component of the assay system on a support, thereby allowing other components of the system to be brought into contact with the component and readily removed without laborious and time-consuming labor.  
25 It is possible for a second phase to be immobilized away from the first, but one phase is usually sufficient.

It is possible to immobilize the enzyme itself on a support, but if solid-phase enzyme is required, then this is generally best achieved by binding to antibody and affixing the antibody to a support, models and systems for which are well-known in  
30 the art. Simple polyethylene may provide a suitable support.

Enzymes employable for labeling are not particularly limited, but may be selected from the members of the oxidase group, for example. These catalyze production of hydrogen peroxide by reaction with their substrates, and glucose oxidase is often used for its good stability, ease of availability and cheapness, as well as the ready availability of its substrate (glucose). Activity of the oxidase may be assayed by measuring the concentration of hydrogen peroxide formed after reaction of the enzyme-labeled antibody with the substrate under controlled conditions well-known in the art.

Other techniques may be used to detect VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 according to a practitioner's preference based upon the present disclosure. One such technique is Western blotting (Towbin et al., *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 76:4350 (1979)), wherein a suitably treated sample is run on an SDS-PAGE gel before being transferred to a solid support, such as a nitrocellulose filter. Anti-receptor antibodies (unlabelled) are then brought into contact with the support and assayed by a secondary immunological reagent, such as labeled protein A or anti-immunoglobulin (suitable labels including <sup>125</sup>I, horseradish peroxidase and alkaline phosphatase).

Samples for diagnostic purposes may be obtained from any number of sources. A sample obtained direct from the tumor, such as the stroma or cytosol, may be used to determine the metastatic potential of the tumor. It may also be appropriate to obtain the sample from other biological specimens, such as blood or urine. Such diagnosis may be of particular importance in monitoring progress of a patient, such as after surgery to remove a tumor. If a reference reading is taken after the operation, then another taken at regular intervals, any rise could be indicative of a relapse, or possibly a metastasis. Preferably, the sample is from the tumor itself.

The antibodies may be raised against either a peptide of the receptor or the whole molecule. Such a peptide may be presented together with a carrier protein, such as an KLH, to an animal system or, if it is long enough, say 25 amino acid residues, without a carrier.

Polyclonal antibodies generated by the above technique may be used direct, or suitable antibody producing cells may be isolated from the animal and used to form a

hybridoma by known means (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature* 256:795. (1975)). Selection of an appropriate hybridoma will also be apparent to those skilled in the art, and the resulting antibody may be used in a suitable assay to identify VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2.

5           This invention provides a convenient kit for measuring human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 and their homologs. This kit includes antibodies or antibody fragments which selectively bind human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or a set of DNA oligonucleotide primers that allow synthesis of cDNA encoding the receptors. Preferably, the primers comprise at least 17 nucleotides and hybridizes under stringent conditions to a DNA  
10   fragment having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 (VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1) or SEQ ID NO:3 (NP-2). As herein used, the term "stringent conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences.

          DNA encoding human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 and recombinant human  
15   VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 may be produced according to the methods set forth in the Examples.

          The receptors are preferably produced by recombinant methods. A wide variety of molecular and biochemical methods are available for generating and expressing the polypeptides of the present invention; see e.g. the procedures disclosed  
20   in *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual* (2nd Ed., Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis, Cold Spring Harbor), *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Eds. Aufubel, Brent, Kingston, More, Feidman, Smith and Stuhl, Greene Publ. Assoc., Wiley-Interscience, NY, N.Y. 1992) or other procedures that are otherwise known in the art. For example, the polypeptides of the invention may be obtained by chemical  
25   synthesis, expression in bacteria such as *E. coli* and eukaryotes such as yeast, baculovirus, or mammalian cell-based expression systems, etc., depending on the size, nature and quantity of the polypeptide.

          The term "isolated" means that the polypeptide is removed from its original environment (e.g., the native VEGF molecule). For example, a naturally-occurring  
30   polynucleotides or polypeptides present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotides or DNA or polypeptides, separated from some or all of the coexisting

materials in the natural system, is isolated. Such polynucleotides could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotides or polypeptides could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

5           Where it is desired to express the receptor or a fragment thereof, any suitable system can be used. The general nature of suitable vectors, expression vectors and constructions therefor will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

          Suitable expression vectors may be based on phages or plasmids, both of which are generally host-specific, although these can often be engineered for other  
10       hosts. Other suitable vectors include cosmids and retroviruses, and any other vehicles, which may or may not be specific for a given system. Control sequences, such as recognition, promoter, operator, inducer, terminator and other sequences essential and/or useful in the regulation of expression, will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

15           Correct preparation of nucleotide sequences may be confirmed, for example, by the method of Sanger et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 74:5463-7 (1977)).

          A DNA fragment encoding the receptor or fragment thereof, may readily be inserted into a suitable vector. Ideally, the receiving vector has suitable restriction sites for ease of insertion, but blunt-end ligation, for example, may also be used, although  
20       this may lead to uncertainty over reading frame and direction of insertion. In such an instance, it is a matter of course to test transformants for expression, 1 in 6 of which should have the correct reading frame. Suitable vectors may be selected as a matter of course by those skilled in the art according to the expression system desired.

          By transforming a suitable organism or, preferably, eukaryotic cell line, such  
25       as HeLa, with the plasmid obtained, selecting the transformant with ampicillin or by other suitable means if required, and adding tryptophan or other suitable promoter-inducer (such as indoleacrylic acid) if necessary, the desired polypeptide or protein may be expressed. The extent of expression may be analyzed by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis-SDS-PAGE (Lemelli, *Nature* 227:680-685  
30       (1970)).



Suitable methods for growing and transforming cultures etc. are usefully illustrated in, for example, Maniatis (Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Notebook, Maniatis et al. (eds.), Cold Spring Harbor Labs, N.Y. (1989)).

Cultures useful for production of polypeptides or proteins may suitably be  
5 cultures of any living cells, and may vary from prokaryotic expression systems up to eukaryotic expression systems. One preferred prokaryotic system is that of *E. coli*, owing to its ease of manipulation. However, it is also possible to use a higher system, such as a mammalian cell line, for expression of a eukaryotic protein. Currently preferred cell lines for transient expression are the HeLa and Cos cell lines. Other  
10 expression systems include the Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell line and the baculovirus system.

Other expression systems which may be employed include streptomycetes, for example, and yeasts, such as *Saccharomyces* spp., especially *S. cerevisiae*. Any system may be used as desired, generally depending on what is required by the  
15 operator. Suitable systems may also be used to amplify the genetic material, but it is generally convenient to use *E. coli* for this purpose when only proliferation of the DNA is required.

The polypeptides and proteins may be isolated from the fermentation or cell culture and purified using any of a variety of conventional methods including: liquid  
20 chromatography such as normal or reversed phase, using HPLC, FPLC and the like; affinity chromatography (such as with inorganic ligands or monoclonal antibodies); size exclusion chromatography; immobilized metal chelate chromatography; gel electrophoresis; and the like. One of skill in the art may select the most appropriate isolation and purification techniques without departing from the scope of this  
25 invention.

Additionally, the DNA encoding VEGF<sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 or NP-2 can be used to treat ischemia, e.g., heart and limb. The DNA can be used as an adjunct to gene therapy with VEGF (See, e.g., Isner, J., WO 97/14307). For example, the DNA can be delivered to the vicinity of the area to be treated either prior to, or along with, the  
30 VEGF or DNA encoding the VEGF.

The present invention also provides binding assays using VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 that permit the ready screening for compounds which affect the binding of the receptor and its ligands, e.g., VEGF<sub>165</sub>. These assays can be used to identify compounds that modulate, preferably inhibit metastasis. However, it is also important to know if a compound enhances metastasis so that its use can be avoided. For example, in a direct binding assay the compound of interest can be added before or after the addition of the labeled ligand, e.g., VEGF<sub>165</sub> and the effect of the compound on binding or metastasis can be determined by comparing the degree of binding in that situation against a base line standard with that ligand, not in the presence of the compound. The assay can be adapted depending upon precisely what is being tested.

The preferred technique for identifying molecules which bind to the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 receptor utilizes a receptor attached to a solid phase, such as the well of an assay plate. The binding of the candidate molecules, which are optionally labeled (e.g., radiolabeled), to the immobilized receptor can be measured. Alternatively, competition for binding of a known, labeled receptor ligand, such as I-<sup>125</sup> VEGF<sub>165</sub>, can be measured. For screening for antagonists, the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 receptor can be exposed to a receptor ligand, e.g., VEGF<sub>165</sub>, followed by the putative antagonist, or the ligand and antagonist can be added to the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 receptor simultaneously, and the ability of the antagonist to block receptor activation can be evaluated. For example, VEGF antagonist activity may also be determined by inhibition of binding of labeled VEGF<sub>165</sub> to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R as disclosed in the Examples.

The ability of discovered antagonists to influence angiogenesis or metastasis can also be determined using a number of know *in vivo* and *in vitro* assays. Such assays are disclosed in Jain et al., *Nature Medicine* 3, 1203-1208(1997), and the examples.

The present invention further provides use of the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 for intracellular or extracellular targets to affect binding. Intracellular targeting can be accomplished through the use of intracellularly expressed antibodies referred to as intrabodies. Extracellular targeting can be accomplished through the use of receptor specific antibodies. Additionally, the soluble form of the receptor can be used as a receptor decoy to inhibit binding.

These methods can be used to inhibit metastasis in malignant cells as we have found that the presence of these receptors is positively correlated with metastasis. One can treat a range of afflictions or diseases associated with expression of the receptor by directly blocking the receptor. This can be accomplished by a range of different approaches. For example, antibodies, decoys, small molecules, antagonists, etc. One preferred approach is the use of antibodies that specifically block VEGF binding to the receptor. For example, an antibody to the VEGF binding site. Antibodies to these receptors can be prepared by standard means. For example, one can use single chain antibodies to target these binding sites.

10 One type of decoy can be obtained by deleting or otherwise changing the transmembrane portion of the molecule. The cytoplasmic tail can also be deleted in one embodiment, or retained in another.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated antibodies or antibody fragments which selectively binds the receptor. The antibody fragments include, for example, Fab, Fab', F(ab')<sub>2</sub> or Fv fragments. The antibody may be a single chain antibody, a humanized antibody or a chimeric antibody.

Antibodies, or their equivalents, or other receptor antagonists may also be used in accordance with the present invention for the treatment or prophylaxis of cancers.

20 Administration of a suitable dose of the antibody or the antagonist may serve to block the receptor and this may provide a crucial time window in which to treat the malignant growth.

Prophylaxis may be appropriate even at very early stages of the disease, as it is not known what specific event actually triggers metastasis in any given case. Thus, administration of the antibodies, their equivalents, intrabodies, decoys or antagonists which interfere with receptor activity, may be effected as soon as cancer is diagnosed, and treatment continued for as long as is necessary, preferably until the threat of the disease has been removed. Such treatment may also be used prophylactically in individuals at high risk for development of certain cancers, e.g., prostate or breast.

30 A method of treatment involves attachment of a suitable toxin to the antibodies which then target the area of the tumor. Such toxins are well known in the art, and

may comprise toxic radioisotopes, heavy metals; enzymes and complement activators, as well as such natural toxins as ricin which are capable of acting at the level of only one or two molecules per cell. It may also be possible to use such a technique to deliver localized doses of suitable physiologically active compounds, which may be  
5 used, for example, to treat cancers.

It will be appreciated that antibodies for use in accordance with the present invention, whether for diagnostic or therapeutic applications, may be monoclonal or polyclonal as appropriate. Antibody equivalents of these may comprise: the Fab' fragments of the antibodies, such as Fab, Fab', F(ab')<sub>2</sub> and Fv; idiotopes; or the results  
10 of allotope grafting (where the recognition region of an animal antibody is grafted into the appropriate region of a human antibody to avoid an immune response in the patient), for example. Single chain antibodies may also be used. Other suitable modifications and/or agents will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Chimeric and humanized antibodies are also within the scope of the invention.  
15 It is expected that chimeric and humanized antibodies would be less immunogenic in a human subject than the corresponding non-chimeric antibody. A variety of approaches for making chimeric antibodies, comprising for example a non-human variable region and a human constant region, have been described. See, for example, Morrison et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 81,6851 (1985); Takeda, et al., Nature 314,452(1985),  
20 Cabilly et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,816,567; Boss et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,816,397; Tanaguchi et al., European Patent Publication EP 171496; European Patent Publication 0173494, United Kingdom Patent GB 2177096B. Additionally, a chimeric antibody can be further "humanized" such that parts of the variable regions, especially the conserved framework regions of the antigen-binding domain, are of human origin and only the  
25 hypervariable regions are of non-human origin. Such altered immunoglobulin molecules may be made by any of several techniques known in the art, (e.g., Teng et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 80, 7308-7312 (1983); Kozbor et al., Immunology Today, 4, 7279 (1983); Olsson et al., Meth. Enzymol., 92, 3-16 (1982)), and are preferably made according to the teachings of PCT Publication WO92/06193 or EP  
30 0239400. Humanized antibodies can be commercially produced by, for example, Scotgen Limited, 2 Holly Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, Great Britain.

The antibody can be administered by a number of methods. One preferred method is set forth by Marasco and Haseltine in PCT WO94/02610, which is incorporated herein by reference. This method discloses the intracellular delivery of a gene encoding the antibody. One would preferably use a gene encoding a single chain antibody. The antibody would preferably contain a nuclear localization sequence. One preferably uses an SV40 nuclear localization signal. By this method one can intracellularly express an antibody, which can block VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 functioning in desired cells.

Where the present invention provides for the administration of, for example, antibodies to a patient, then this may be by any suitable route. If the tumor is still thought to be, or diagnosed as, localized, then an appropriate method of administration may be by injection direct to the site. Administration may also be by injection, including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous and intradermal injections.

Formulations may be any that are appropriate to the route of administration, and will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The formulations may contain a suitable carrier, such as saline, and may also comprise bulking agents, other medicinal preparations, adjuvants and any other suitable pharmaceutical ingredients. Catheters are one preferred mode of administration.

VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 expression may also be inhibited *in vivo* by the use of antisense technology. Antisense technology can be used to control gene expression through triple-helix formation or antisense DNA or RNA, both of which methods are based on binding of a polynucleotide to DNA or RNA. An antisense nucleic acid molecule which is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule encoding receptor can be designed based upon the isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding the receptor provided by the invention. An antisense nucleic acid molecule can comprise a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a coding strand of a nucleic acid, e.g. complementary to an mRNA sequence, constructed according to the rules of Watson and Crick base pairing, and can hydrogen bond to the coding strand of the nucleic acid. The antisense sequence complementary to a sequence of an mRNA can be complementary to a sequence in the coding region of the mRNA or can be complementary to a 5' or 3' untranslated region of the mRNA. Furthermore, an

antisense nucleic acid can be complementary in-sequence to a regulatory region of the gene encoding the mRNA, for instance a transcription initiation sequence or regulatory element. Preferably, an antisense nucleic acid complementary to a region preceding or spanning the initiation codon or in the 3' untranslated region of an mRNA is used. An antisense nucleic acid can be designed based upon the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 (VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1) or SEQ ID NO:3/NP-2). A nucleic acid is designed which has a sequence complementary to a sequence of the coding or untranslated region of the shown nucleic acid. Alternatively, an antisense nucleic acid can be designed based upon sequences of a VEGF<sub>165</sub>R gene, which can be identified by screening a genomic DNA library with an isolated nucleic acid of the invention. For example, the sequence of an important regulatory element can be determined by standard techniques and a sequence which is antisense to the regulatory element can be designed.

The antisense nucleic acids and oligonucleotides of the invention can be constructed using chemical synthesis and enzymatic ligation reactions using procedures known in the art. The antisense nucleic acid or oligonucleotide can be chemically synthesized using naturally occurring nucleotides or variously modified nucleotides designed to increase the biological stability of the molecules or to increase the physical stability of the duplex formed between the antisense and sense nucleic acids e.g. phosphorothioate derivatives and acridine substituted nucleotides can be used. Alternatively, the antisense nucleic acids and oligonucleotides can be produced biologically using an expression vector into which a nucleic acid has been subcloned in an antisense orientation (i.e. nucleic acid transcribed from the inserted nucleic acid will be of an antisense orientation to a target nucleic acid of interest). The antisense expression vector is introduced into cells in the form of a recombinant plasmid, phagemid or attenuated virus in which antisense nucleic acids are produced under the control of a high efficiency regulatory region, the activity of which can be determined by the cell type into which the vector is introduced. For a discussion of the regulation of gene expression using antisense genes see Weintraub, H. et al., Antisense RNA as a molecular tool for genetic analysis, Reviews - Trends in Genetics, Vol. 1 (1)1986.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable"-refers to compounds and compositions which may be administered to mammals without undue toxicity. Exemplary pharmaceutically acceptable salts include mineral acid salts such as hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, phosphates, sulfates, and the like; and the salts of organic acids such as acetates, propionates, malonates, benzoates, and the like.

The antibodies or nucleic acids of the invention are administered orally, topically, or by parenteral means, including subcutaneous and intramuscular injection, implantation of sustained release depots, intravenous injection, intranasal administration, and the like. Accordingly, antibodies or nucleic acids of the invention may be administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or nucleic acid of the invention in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Such compositions may be aqueous solutions, emulsions, creams, ointments, suspensions, gels, liposomal suspensions, and the like. Suitable carriers (excipients) include water, saline, Ringer's solution, dextrose solution, and solutions of ethanol, glucose, sucrose, dextran, mannose, mannitol, sorbitol, polyethylene glycol (PEG), phosphate, acetate, gelatin, collagen, Carbopol Registered TM, vegetable oils, and the like. One may additionally include suitable preservatives, stabilizers, antioxidants, antimicrobials, and buffering agents, for example, BHA, BHT, citric acid, ascorbic acid, tetracycline, and the like. Cream or ointment bases useful in formulation include lanolin, Silvadene Registered TM (Marion), Aquaphor Registered TM (Duke Laboratories), and the like. Other topical formulations include aerosols, bandages, and other wound dressings. Alternatively one may incorporate or encapsulate the compounds such as a VEGF antagonist in a suitable polymer matrix or membrane, thus providing a sustained-release delivery device suitable for implantation near the site to be treated locally. Other devices include indwelling catheters and devices such as the Alzet Registered TM minipump. Ophthalmic preparations may be formulated using commercially available vehicles such as Sorbi-care Registered TM (Allergan), Neodecadron Registered TM (Merck, Sharp & Dohme), Lacrilube Registered TM, and the like, or may employ topical preparations such as that described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,124,155, incorporated herein by reference. Further, one may provide a VEGF antagonist in solid form, especially as a lyophilized powder. Lyophilized formulations

typically contain stabilizing and bulking agents; for example human serum albumin, sucrose, mannitol, and the like. A thorough discussion of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is available in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Mack Pub. Co.).

The amount of antibody or nucleic acid required to treat any particular disorder will of course vary depending upon the nature and severity of the disorder, the age and condition of the subject, and other factors readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art.

All references cited above or below are herein incorporated by reference.

The present invention is further illustrated by the following Examples. These Examples are provided to aid in the understanding of the invention and are not construed as a limitation thereof.

#### EXAMPLE 1

##### Experimental procedures

##### Materials

Cell culture media, lipofectin and lipofectamin reagents for transfection were purchased from Life Technologies. Human recombinant VEGF<sub>165</sub> and VEGF<sub>121</sub> were produced in Sf-21 insect cells infected with recombinant baculovirus vectors encoding either human VEGF<sub>165</sub> or VEGF<sub>121</sub> as previously described (Cohen et al., *Growth Factors*, 7, 131-138 (1992); Cohen et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 270, 11322-11326 (1995)). GST VEGF exons 7+8 fusion protein was prepared in E.Coli and purified as previously described (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). Heparin, hygromycin B and protease inhibitors were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). <sup>125</sup>I-Sodium, <sup>32</sup>P-dCTP, and GeneScreen-Plus hybridization transfer membrane were purchased from DuPont NEN (Boston, MA). Disuccinimidyl suberate (DSS) and IODO-BEADS were purchased from Pierce Chemical Co. (Rockford, IL). Con A Sepharose was purchased from Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology Inc. (Piscataway, NJ). RNazol-B was purchased from TEL-TEST Inc. (Friendswood, TX). Silver Stain kit and Trans-Blot PVDF membranes were purchased from Bio-Rad Laboratories (Hercules, CA). Multiple tissue northern blot membranes were purchased from Clontech (Palo Alto, CA). PolyAtract mRNA isolation kits were purchased from



Promega (Madison, WI). RediPrime DNA labeling kits and molecular weight markers were purchased from Amersham (Arlington Heights, IL). Plasmids: pcDNA3.1 was purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA), and pCPhygro, containing the CMV promoter and encoding hygromycin B phosphotransferase, was kindly provided by Dr.

- 5 Urban Deutsch (Max Plank Institute, Bad Nauheim, Germany). Restriction endonucleases and Ligase were purchased from New England Biolabs, Inc (Beverly, MA). NT-B2 photographic emulsion and x-ray film were purchased from the Eastman Kodak company (Rochester NY).

10 Cell culture

- Human umbilical vein EC (HUVEC) were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Rockville, MD), and grown on gelatin coated dishes in M-199 medium containing 20% fetal calf serum (FCS) and a mixture of glutamine, penicillin and streptomycin (GPS). Basic FGF (2 ng/ml) was added to the culture medium every other day. Parental porcine aortic endothelial (PAE) cells and PAE cells expressing KDR (PAE/KDR) (Waltenberger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 26988-26995 (1994)) were kindly provided by Dr. Lena Claesson-Welsh and were grown in F12 medium containing 10% FCS and GPS. MDA-MB-231 cells and MDA-MB-453 cells were obtained from ATCC, and grown in DMEM containing 10% FCS and GPS. The human melanoma cell lines, RU-mel, EP-mel and WK-mel were kindly provided by Dr. Randolph Byer (Boston University Medical School, Boston, MA), and grown in DMEM containing 2% FCS, 8% calf serum and GPS. Human metastatic prostate adenocarcinoma, LNCaP and prostate carcinoma, PC3 cells were kindly provided by Dr. Michael Freeman (Children's Hospital, Boston, MA), and grown in RPMI 1640 containing 5% FCS and GPS.

Purification and protein sequencing

- Approximately  $5 \times 10^8$  MDA-MB-231 cells grown in 150 cm dishes were washed with PBS containing 5 mM EDTA, scraped and centrifuged for 5 min at 500g. The cell pellet was lysed with 150 ml of 20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 0.5% triton X-100 and protease inhibitors including 1 mM AEBSF, 5 µg/ml leupeptin and 5 µg/ml aprotinin for 30 min on ice, and the

lysate was centrifuged at 30,000 x g for 30 min.  $\text{MnCl}_2$  and  $\text{CaCl}_2$  were added to the supernatant to obtain a final concentration of 1mM each. The lysate was absorbed onto a Con A Sepharose column (7 ml) and bound proteins were eluted with 15 ml 20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 0.2 M NaCl, 0.1% triton X-100 and 1 M methyl- $\alpha$ -D-mannopyranoside at 0.2 ml/min.

- 5 The elution was repeated twice more at 30 minute intervals. The Con A column eluates were pooled and incubated for 12 h at 4°C with 0.5 ml of VEGF<sub>165</sub>- Sepharose beads, containing about 150  $\mu\text{g}$  VEGF<sub>165</sub>, prepared as described previously (Wilchek and Miron, *Biochem. Int.* 4, 629-635. (1982)). The VEGF<sub>165</sub>-Sepharose beads were washed with 50 ml of 20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 0.2 M NaCl and 0.1% triton X-100 and then with 25 ml of 20 mM HEPES, pH 8.0. The beads were boiled in SDS-PAGE buffer and bound proteins were separated by 6% SDS-PAGE. Proteins were transferred to a TransBlot PVDF membrane using a semi-dry electric blotter (Hoeffer Scientific), and the PVDF membrane was stained with 0.1% Coomassie Brilliant Blue in 40% methanol. The two prominent proteins in a 130-140 kDa doublet were cut out separately and N-terminally sequenced using an Applied Biosystems model 477A microsequenator as a service provided by Dr. William Lane of the Harvard Microchemistry facility (Cambridge, MA).

#### Expression cloning and DNA sequencing

Complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized from 5  $\mu\text{g}$  231 mRNA.

- 20 Double-stranded cDNA was ligated to *EcoRI* adaptors, and size-fractionated on a 5-20% potassium acetate gradient. DNA fragments larger than 2kb were ligated to an eukaryotic expression plasmid, pcDNA3.1. The plasmid library was transfected into E.coli to yield a primary library of approximately  $1 \times 10^7$  individual clones. A portion of the transformed bacteria was divided into 240 pools, each representing approximately  $3 \times 10^3$  individual clones. DNA prepared from each pool was used to transfect COS-7 cells seeded in 12 well dishes, using the Lipofectin reagent according to the manufacturer's instructions. Three days after transfection, the cells were incubated on ice for 2 h with  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> (10 ng/ml) in the presence of 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  heparin, washed and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS.  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to individual cells was detected by overlaying the monolayers with photographic emulsion, NT-B2, and developing the emulsion after two days as described (Gearing

et al., 1989). Seven positive DNA pools were identified and DNA from one of the positive pools was used to transform *E. coli*. The *E. coli* were sub-divided into 50 separate pools and plated onto 50 LB ampicillin dishes, with each pool representing approximately 100 clones. DNA made from these pools was transfected into COS-7 cells which were screened for  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding as described above. Twenty positive pools were detected at this step, and their corresponding DNAs were used to transform *E. coli*. Each pool was plated onto separate LB ampicillin dishes and DNA was prepared from 96 individual colonies and screened in a 96-well two dimensional grid for  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to transfected COS-7 cells as described above. Seven single clones were identified as being positive at this step. The seven positive plasmid clones were amplified and their DNA was analyzed by restriction enzyme digestion. Six clones showed an identical digestion pattern of digest and one was different. One clone from each group was submitted for automated DNA sequencing.

#### 15 Northern Analysis

Total RNA was prepared from cells in culture using RNeasy according to the manufacturer's instructions. Samples of 20  $\mu\text{g}$  RNA were separated on a 1% formaldehyde-agarose gel, and transferred to a GeneScreen-Plus membrane. The membrane was hybridized with a  $^{32}\text{P}$  labeled fragment of human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA, corresponding to nucleotides 63-454 in the ORF, at 63°C for 18 h. The membrane was washed and exposed to an x-ray film for 18 h. A commercially-obtained multiple human adult tissue mRNA blot (Clontech, 2  $\mu\text{g}$ /lane) was probed for human NP-1 in a similar manner. The multiple tissue blot was stripped by boiling in the presence of 0.5% SDS and re-probed with a  $^{32}\text{P}$  labeled fragment of KDR cDNA corresponding to nucleotides 2841-3251 of the ORF (Terman et al., *Oncogene* 6, 1677-1683 (1991)).

#### Transfection of PAE cells

Parental PAE cells and PAE cells expressing KDR (PAE/KDR) (Waltenberger et al., 1994) were obtained from Dr. Lena Claesson-Welsh. Human NP-1 cDNA was digested with *Xho*I and *Xba*I restriction enzymes and subcloned into the

corresponding sites of pCPhygro, to yield pCPhyg-NP-1. PAE and PAE/KDR cells were grown in 6 cm dishes and transfected with 5  $\mu$ g of pCPhyg-NP-1 using Lipofectamine, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were allowed to grow for an additional 48 h and the medium was replaced with fresh medium

5 containing 200  $\mu$ g/ml hygromycin B. After 2 weeks, isolated colonies ( $5-10 \times 10^3$  cell/colony) were transferred to separate wells of a 48 well dish and grown in the presence of 200  $\mu$ g /ml hygromycin B. Stable PAE cell clones expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (PAE/NP-1) or co-expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR (PAE/KDR/NP-1) were screened for VEGF<sub>165</sub> receptor expression by binding and

10 cross linking of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub>. For transient transfection, PAE/KDR cells were transfected with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 as described above and after three days <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> cross-linking analysis was carried out.

#### Radio-iodination of VEGF, binding and cross-linking experiments.

15 The radio-iodination of VEGF<sub>165</sub> and VEGF<sub>121</sub> using IODO-BEADS was carried out as previously described (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997)). The specific activity ranged from 40,000-100,000 cpm/ng protein. Binding and cross-linking experiments using <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> and <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub> were performed as previously described (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267, 6093-6098 (1992);

20 Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). VEGF binding was quantitated by measuring the cell-associated radioactivity in a  $\gamma$ -counter (Beckman, Gamma 5500). The counts represent the average of three wells. All experiments were repeated at least three times and similar results were obtained. The results of the binding experiments were analyzed by the method of Scatchard using the LIGAND program (Munson and

25 Rodbard, 1980). <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> and <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub> cross linked complexes were resolved by 6% SDS/PAGE and the gels were exposed to an X-Ray film. X-ray films were subsequently scanned by using an IS-1000 digital imaging system (Alpha Innotech Corporation)

### Purification of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R

Cross-linking of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to cell surface receptors of 231 cells results in formation of a 165-175 kDa labeled complex (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). These cells have about 1-2 x 10<sup>5</sup> VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding sites/cell. In contrast to VEGF<sub>165</sub>, VEGF<sub>121</sub> does not bind to the 231 cells and does not form a ligand-receptor complex (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). The relatively high VEGF<sub>165</sub>R number and the lack of any detectable KDR or Flt-1 mRNA in 231 cells (not shown) suggested that these cells would be a useful source for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R purification. Preliminary characterization indicated that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R is a glycoprotein and accordingly, a 231 cell lysate prepared from approximately 5 x 10<sup>8</sup> cells was absorbed onto a Con A Sepharose column. Bound proteins, eluted from the Con A column, were incubated with VEGF<sub>165</sub>-Sepharose and the VEGF<sub>165</sub>- affinity purified proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and silver staining (Figure 9, lane 2). A prominent doublet with a molecular mass of about 130-135 kDa was detected. This size is consistent with the formation of a 165-175 kDa complex of 40-45 kDa VEGF<sub>165</sub> bound to receptors approximately 130-135 kDa in size (Figure 9, lane 1). The two bands were excised separately and N-terminal amino acid sequencing was carried out (Figure 1, right). Both the upper and lower bands had similar N-terminal amino acid sequences which showed high degrees of sequence homology to the predicted amino acid sequences in the N-terminal regions of mouse (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995)) and human neuropilin-1 (NP-1) (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90739-751 (1997)).

### Expression cloning of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R from 231 cell-derived mRNA

Concomitant with the purification, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R was cloned by expression cloning (Aruffo and Seed, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84, 8573-8577 (1987a); Aruffo and Seed, *EMBO J.*, 6, 3313-3316 (1987b); Gearing et al., *EMBO J.* 8,3667-3676 (1989)). For expression cloning, 231 cell mRNA was used to prepare a cDNA library of approximately 10<sup>7</sup> clones in a eukaryotic expression plasmid. *E. coli* transformed with the plasmid library were divided into pools. The DNA prepared from each pool were transfected into COS-7 cells in separate wells and individual cells were screened

for the ability to bind  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> as detected by autoradiography of monolayers overlaid with photographic emulsion (Fig 2A). After three rounds of subpooling and screening, seven single positive cDNA clones were obtained. Figure 2B shows binding of  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> to COS-7 cells transfected with one of these single positive clones (clone A2).

Restriction enzyme analysis revealed that six of the seven positive single clones had identical restriction digestion patterns but that one clone had a pattern that was different (not shown). Sequencing of one of these similar cDNA clones, clone A2 (Figure 3), showed it to be identical to a sequence derived from a human-expressed sequence tag data bank (dbEST). This sequence also showed a high percentage of homology to the sequence of mouse neuropilin, NP-1 (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol* 29, 1-17 (1995)). After we had cloned human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R, two groups reported the cloning of rat and human receptors for semaphorin III and identified them to be NP-1 (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). The 231 cell-derived VEGF<sub>165</sub>R cDNA sequence is virtually identical (see figure legend 3 for exceptions) to the human NP-1 sequence (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997)). Significantly, the predicted amino acid sequence obtained by expression cloning (Figure 3) confirmed the identification of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R as NP-1 that was determined by N-terminal sequencing (Figure 1), and we have therefore named this VEGF receptor, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

The human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA sequence predicts an open reading frame (ORF) of 923 amino acids with two hydrophobic regions representing putative signal peptide and transmembrane domains (Figure 3). Overall, the sequence predicts ectodomain, transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains consistent with the structure of a cell surface receptor. The N-terminal sequence obtained via protein purification as shown in Figure 1 is downstream of a 21 amino acid putative hydrophobic signal peptide domain, thereby indicating directly where the signal peptide domain is cleaved and removed. The short cytoplasmic tail of 40 amino acids is consistent with results demonstrating that soluble VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 released by partial trypsin digestion of 231 cells is similar in size to intact VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (not shown).

Sequence analysis of the one clone obtained by expression cloning that had a different restriction enzyme profile predicted an open reading frame of 931 amino acids with about a 47% homology to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 4). This human cDNA has a 93% sequence homology with rat neuropilin-2 (NP-2) and is identical to the recently cloned human NP-2 (Chen et al., *Neuron*, 19, 547-559 (1997)).

#### Expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in adult cell lines and tissues

Reports of NP-1 gene expression have been limited so far to the nervous system of the developing embryo (Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 122, 90-100 (1987); Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995); Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)). Cell surface VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, however, is associated with non-neuronal adult cell types such as EC and a variety of tumor-derived cells (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). Northern blot analysis was carried out to determine whether cells that crossed-linked <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> also synthesized VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA. (Figure 5). VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA levels were highest in 231 and PC3 cells. VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA was detected to a lesser degree in HUVEC, LNCaP, EP-mel and RU-mel cells. There was little if any expression in MDA-MB-453 and WK-mel cells. The VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 gene expression patterns were consistent with our previous results showing that HUVEC, 231, PC3, LNCaP, EP-mel and RU-mel cells bind <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to cell surface VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 but that MDA-MB-453 and WK-mel cells do not (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)).

VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 gene expression was analyzed also by Northern blot in a variety of adult tissues in comparison to KDR gene expression (Figure 6). VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA levels were relatively highly in adult heart and placenta and relatively moderate in lung, liver, skeletal muscle, kidney and pancreas. A relatively low level of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA was detected in adult brain. Interestingly, previous analysis of NP-1 gene expression in mouse and chicken brain suggested that this gene was expressed primarily during embryonic development and was greatly diminished after birth (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995); Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)). The tissue distribution of KDR mRNA was similar to that of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 with the exception that it was not expressed highly in the

heart. These results indicate that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is expressed widely in adult non-neuronal tissue, including tissues in which angiogenesis occurs such as heart and placenta.

5 Characterization of VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1

In order to characterize the binding properties of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, porcine aortic endothelial (PAE) cells were transfected with the cDNA of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1. The PAE cells were chosen for these expression studies because they express neither KDR, Flt-1 (Waltenberger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 26988-26995 (1994)) nor VEGF<sub>165</sub>R. Stable cell lines synthesizing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (PAE/NP-1) were established and <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding experiments were carried out (Fig 7). <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to PAE/NP-1 cells increased in a dose-dependent manner and reached saturation at approximately 30 ng/ml demonstrating that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is a specific VEGF<sub>165</sub> receptor (Figure 7A). Scatchard analysis of VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding revealed a single class of VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding sites with a K<sub>d</sub> of approximately 3.2 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M and approximately 3 x 10<sup>5</sup> <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding sites per cell (Figure 7B). Similar K<sub>d</sub> values were obtained for several independently-generated PAE/NP-1 clones, although the receptor number varied from clone to clone (not shown). The K<sub>d</sub> of 3 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M for the PAE/NP-1 cell lines is consistent with the 2-2.8 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M K<sub>d</sub> values obtained for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 expressed naturally by HUVEC and 231 cells (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267, 6093-6098 (1992); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). The binding of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to PAE/NP-1 cells was enhanced by 1 µg/ml heparin (not shown), consistent with previous studies showing that heparin enhances <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 on HUVEC and 231 cells (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267, 6093-6098 (1992); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)).

Isoform-specific binding of VEGF to cells expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1

VEGF<sub>165</sub>, but not VEGF<sub>121</sub>, binds to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 on HUVEC and 231 cells (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5519-5523 (1992); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). To ascertain whether cells transfected with



VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 had the same binding specificity, PAE/NP-1 cells were incubated with <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> or <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub> followed by cross-linking (Figure 8). <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> did not bind to parental PAE cells (Figure 8, lane 3) but did bind to PAE/NP-1 cells via VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 8, lane 4). The radiolabeled complexes formed with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 were similar in size to those formed in HUVEC (Figure 8, lane 1) and PC3 cells (Figure 8, lane 2). On the other hand, <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub>, did not bind to either parental PAE (Figure 8, lane 7) or to PAE/NP-1 cells (Figure 8, lane 8). These results demonstrate that the VEGF isoform-specific binding that occurs with cells expressing endogenous VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 such as HUVEC, 231 and PC3 cells, can be replicated in cells transfected with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA and support the finding that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R and NP-1 are identical.

#### Co-expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR modulates VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to KDR

To determine whether expression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 had any effect on VEGF<sub>165</sub> interactions with KDR, PAE cells that were previously transfected with KDR cDNA to produce stable clones of PAE/KDR cells (Waltenberger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 26988-26995 (1994)), were transfected with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA and stable clones expressing both receptors (PAE/KDR/NP-1) were obtained. These cells bound <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR (Figure 8, lane 6, upper complex) and to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 8, lane 6, lower complex) to yield a cross-linking profile similar to HUVEC (Figure 8, lane 1). On the other hand, the PAE/KDR/NP-1 cells bound <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>121</sub> to form a complex only with KDR (Figure 8, lanes 9 and 10), consistent with the inability of VEGF<sub>121</sub> to bind VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

It appeared that in cells co-expressing KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 8, lane 6), the degree of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub>-KDR 240 kDa complex formation was enhanced compared to the parental PAE/KDR cells (Figure 8, lane 5). These results were reproducible and the degree of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub>-KDR 240 kDa complex formation in different clones was correlated positively with the levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 expressed (not shown). However, it could not be ruled out definitively that these differential KDR binding results were possibly due to clonal selection post-transfection.

Therefore, parental PAE/KDR cells were transfected with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA and <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> was bound and cross-linked to the cells three days later in order to avoid any diversity of KDR expression among individual clones (Figure 9). A labeled 240 kDa complex containing KDR was formed in parental PAE/KDR cells (Fig 9, lane 1) and in PAE/KDR cells transfected with the expression vector (Figure 9, lane 2). However, when <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> was cross-linked to PAE/KDR cells transiently expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, a more intensely labeled 240 kDa complex, about 4 times greater, was observed (Figure 9, lane 3), compared to parental PAE/KDR cells (Figure 9, lane 1) and PAE/KDR cells transfected with expression vector (Figure 9, lane 2). These results suggest that co-expression of KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 genes in the same cell enhances the ability of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to bind to KDR.

#### A GST-VEGF Exon 7+8 fusion protein inhibits VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR

We have shown that <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 through its exon 7-encoded domain (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). In addition, a GST fusion protein containing the peptide encoded by VEGF exon 7+8 (GST-Ex 7+8), inhibits completely the binding of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 associated with 231 cells and HUVEC (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997)). When, added to PAE/NP-1 cells, the fusion protein completely inhibited binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 10, lane 2 compared to lane 1). On the other hand, it did not inhibit <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding at all to KDR (Figure 10, lane 4 compared to lane 3). Thus, these results demonstrate that GST-Ex 7+8 binds directly to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 but does not bind to KDR. The effects of GST-Ex 7+8 are different, however, in cells co-expressing both VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR (PAE/KDR/NP-1). Consistent with the results in Figures 8 and 9, the degree of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to KDR in PAE/KDR/NP-1 cells (Figure 10, lane 5) was greater than to the parental PAE/KDR cells (Figure 10, lane 3). Interestingly, in PAE/KDR/NP-1 cells, GST-Ex 7+8 inhibited not only <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 completely as expected, but it also inhibited binding to KDR substantially which was unexpected (Figure 10, lane 6 compared to lane 5). In the

presence of GST-Ex 7+8, binding of  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR in these cells was reduced to the levels seen in parental PAE/KDR cells not expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Figure 10, lane 6 compared to lanes 3 and 4). Since the fusion protein does not bind directly to KDR, these results suggest that inhibiting the binding of  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> to

- 5 VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 directly, inhibits its binding to KDR indirectly. Taken together, the results in Figures 8, 9 and 10 suggest that interactions of VEGF<sub>165</sub> with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 enhance VEGF interactions with KDR.

Neuropilin-1 is an isoform-specific VEGF<sub>165</sub> receptor

- 10 Recently, we described a novel 130-135 kDa VEGF cell surface receptor that binds VEGF<sub>165</sub> but not VEGF<sub>121</sub> and that we named, accordingly, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). We have now purified VEGF<sub>165</sub>R, expression cloned its cDNA, and shown it to be identical to human neuropilin-1 (NP-1) (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90 739-751 (1997)). The evidence that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R is
- 15 identical to NP-1 and that NP-1 serves as a receptor for VEGF<sub>165</sub> is as follows: i) purification of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R protein from human MDA-MB-231 (231) cells using VEGF affinity, yielded a 130-140 kDa doublet upon SDS-PAGE and silver stain. N-terminal sequencing of both proteins yielded the same N-terminal sequence of 18 amino acids that demonstrated a high degree of homology to mouse NP-1 (Kawakami et al., *J.*
- 20 *Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995)); ii) After we purified VEGF<sub>165</sub>R from human 231 cells, the cloning of human NP-1 was reported (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997)) and the N-terminal sequence of human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R was found to be identical to a sequence in the N-terminal region of human NP-1; iii) Expression cloning using a 231 cell cDNA library resulted in isolation of several cDNA clones and their
- 25 sequences were identical to the human NP-1 cDNA sequence (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997)). The combination of purification and expression cloning has the advantage over previous studies where only expression cloning was used (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)), in allowing unambiguous identification of the NP-1 protein N-terminus;
- 30 iv) Northern blot analysis of NP-1 gene expression was consistent with previous  $^{125}\text{I}$ -VEGF<sub>165</sub> cross-linking experiments (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767

(1996)). Cells that bound VEGF<sub>165</sub> to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R synthesized relatively abundant NP-1 mRNA while cells that showed very little if any VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding, did not synthesize much if any NP-1 mRNA; v) when NP-1 was expressed in PAE cells, the transfected, but not the parental cells, were able to bind VEGF<sub>165</sub> but not VEGF<sub>121</sub>,  
5 consistent with the isoform specificity of binding previously shown for HUVEC and 231 cells (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). Furthermore, the K<sub>d</sub> of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding of to PAE expressing NP-1 was about 3 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M, consistent with previous K<sub>d</sub> binding values of 2-2.8 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M for 231 cells and HUVEC (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)); and vi) The binding of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to cells  
10 expressing NP-1 post-transfection was more efficient in the presence of heparin as was the binding of this ligand to HUVEC and 231 cells (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267, 6093-6098 (1992); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). Taken together, these results show not only that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R is identical to NP-1 but that it is a functional receptor that binds VEGF<sub>165</sub> in an isoform-specific manner. Accordingly,  
15 we have named this VEGF receptor VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1.

In addition to the expression cloning of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA, another human cDNA clone was isolated whose predicted amino acid sequence was 47% homologous to that of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and over 90% homologous to rat neuropilin-2 (NP-2) which was recently cloned (Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). NP-2  
20 binds members of the collapsin/semaphorin family selectively (Chen et al., *Neuron* 19, 547-559 (1997)).

The discovery that NP-1 serves as a receptor for VEGF<sub>165</sub> was a surprise since NP-1 had previously been shown to be associated solely with the nervous system during embryonic development (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995);  
25 Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)) and more recently as a receptor for members of the collapsin/semaphorin family (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). NP-1 is a 130-140 kDa transmembrane glycoprotein first identified in the developing *Xenopus* optic system (Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 122, 90-100 (1987); Takagi et al., *Neuron* 7, 295-307  
30 (1991)). NP-1 expression in the nervous system is highly regulated spatially and temporally during development and in particular is associated with those

developmental stages when axons are actively growing to form neuronal connections.(Fujisawa et al., *Dev. Neurosci.* 17, 343-349 (1995); Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol* 29, 1-17 (1995); Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)). The NP-1 protein is associated with neuronal axons but not the stomata (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol* 29, 1-17 (1995)). Functionally, neuropilin has been shown to promote neurite outgrowth of optic nerve fibers in vitro (Hirata et al., *Neurosci. Res.* 17, 159-169 (1993)) and to promote cell adhesiveness (Tagaki et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)). Targeted disruption of NP-1 results in severe abnormalities in the trajectory of efferent fibers of the peripheral nervous system (Kitsukawa et al., *Neuron* 19, 995-1005 (1997)). Based on these studies, it has been suggested that NP-1 is a neuronal cell recognition molecule that plays a role in axon growth and guidance (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995); He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kitsukawa et al., *Neuron* 19, 995-1005 1997; Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)).

Our results are the first to show that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is also expressed in adult tissues, in contrast to the earlier studies that have shown that NP-1 expression in *Xenopus*, chicken and mouse is limited to the developmental and early post-natal stages (Fujisawa et al., *Dev. Neurosci.* 17, 343-349 (1995); Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995); Takagi et al., *Dev. Biol.* 170, 207-222 (1995)). For example, in mice, NP-1 is expressed in the developing nervous system starting in the dorsal root ganglia at day 9 and ceases at day 15 (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995)). Our Northern blot analysis of human adult tissue demonstrates relatively high levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA transcripts in heart, placenta, lung, liver, skeletal muscle, kidney and pancreas. Interestingly, there is very little relative expression in adult brain, consistent with the mouse nervous system expression studies (Kawakami et al., *J. Neurobiol.* 29, 1-17 (1995)). VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is also expressed in a number of cultured non-neuronal cell lines including EC and a variety of tumor-derived cells. A possible function of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in these cells is to mediate angiogenesis as will be discussed below.

In addition, NP-1 has been identified as a receptor for the collapsin/semaphorin family by expression cloning of a cDNA library obtained from

rat E14 spinal cord and dorsal root ganglion (DRG) tissue (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). The collapsin/semaphorins (collapsin-D-1/Sema III/Sem D) comprise a large family of transmembrane and secreted glycoproteins that function in repulsive growth cone and axon guidance (Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 75, 1389-1399 (1993)). The repulsive effect of sema III for DRG cells was blocked by anti-NP-1 antibodies (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)). The  $K_d$  of sema III binding to NP-1,  $0.15-3.25 \times 10^{-10}$  M (He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kolodkin et al., *Cell* 90, 753-762 (1997)) is similar to that of VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding VEGF<sub>165</sub>/NP-1, which is about  $3 \times 10^{-10}$  M. These results indicate that two structurally different ligands with markedly different biological activities, VEGF-induced stimulation of EC migration and proliferation on one hand, and sema III-induced chemorepulsion of neuronal cells, on the other hand, bind to the same receptor and with similar affinity. An interesting question is whether the two ligands bind to the same site on VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or to different sites. VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 has five discrete domains in its ectodomain, and it has been suggested that this diversity of protein modules in NP-1 is consistent with the possibility of multiple binding ligands for NP-1 (Takagi et al., *Neuron* 7, 295-307 (1991); Feiner et al., *Neuron* 19 539-545 (1997); He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90 739-751 (1997)). Preliminary analysis does not indicate any large degree of sequence homology between sema III and VEGF exon 7 which is responsible for VEGF binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). However there may be some 3-dimensional structural similarities between the two ligands. Since both neurons and blood vessels display branching and directional migration, the question also arises as to whether VEGF<sub>165</sub> displays any neuronal guidance activity and whether sema III has any EC growth factor activity. These possibilities have not been examined yet. However, it may be that VEGF requires two receptors, KDR and NP-1 for optimal EC growth factor activity (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997)) and that sema III requires NP-1 and an as yet undetermined high affinity receptor for optimal chemorepulsive activity (Feiner et al., *Neuron* 19, 539-545 (1997); He and Tessier-Lavigne, *Cell* 90, 739-751 (1997); Kitsukawa et al., *Neuron* 19, 995-1005 (1997)), so

that the presence of NP-1 alone might not be sufficient for these ligands to display novel biological activities. Future studies will determine whether there are any connections between the mechanisms that regulate neurogenesis and angiogenesis.

5 VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 role in angiogenesis

VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 modulates the binding of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR, a high affinity RTK that is an important regulator of angiogenesis as evidenced by KDR knock out experiments in mice (Shalaby et al., *Nature* 376, 62-66 (1995). The affinity of KDR for VEGF<sub>165</sub> is about 50 times greater than for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 287, 6003-6096 (1992); Waltenberger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 26988-26995 (1994)). When VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR are co-expressed, the binding of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR is enhanced by about 4-fold compared to cells expressing KDR alone. The enhanced binding can be demonstrated in stable clones co-expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and KDR (PAE/KDR/NP-1 cells), and also in PAE/KDR cells  
15 transfected transiently with VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 cDNA where clonal selection does not take place. Conversely, when the binding of <sup>125</sup>I-VEGF<sub>165</sub> to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in PAE/KDR/NP-1 cells is inhibited completely by a GST fusion protein containing VEGF exons 7+8 (GST-Ex 7+8), the binding to KDR is inhibited substantially, down to the levels observed in cells expressing KDR alone. The fusion protein binds to  
20 VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 directly but is incapable of binding to KDR directly (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997)). Although, not wishing to be bound by theory, we believe that VEGF<sub>165</sub> binds to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 via the exon 7-encoded domain and facilitates VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to KDR via the exon 4-encoded domain (Figure 11). VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, with its relatively high receptor/cell number, about  $0.2-2 \times 10^5$   
25 (Gitay-Goren et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 287, 6003-6096 (1992); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)), appears to serve to concentrate VEGF<sub>165</sub> on the cell surface, thereby providing greater access of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR. Alternatively, binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, VEGF<sub>165</sub> undergoes a conformational change that enhances its binding to KDR. The end result would be elevated KDR signaling and increased  
30 VEGF activity. Although we can demonstrate enhanced binding to KDR, to date we have not been able to demonstrate enhanced VEGF mitogenicity for PAE/KDR/NP-1

cells compared to PAE/KDR cells. One reason is that these cell lines do not proliferate readily in response to VEGF as do HUVEC (Waltenberger et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 269, 26988-26995 (1994). Nevertheless, we have shown that VEGF<sub>165</sub>, which binds to both KDR and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1, is a better mitogen for HUVEC than is VEGF<sub>121</sub>, which

5 binds only to KDR (Keyt et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5638-5646 (1996b); Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997). Furthermore, inhibiting VEGF<sub>165</sub> binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 on HUVEC by GST-EX 7+8, inhibits binding to KDR and also inhibits VEGF<sub>165</sub>-induced HUVEC proliferation, down to the level induced by VEGF<sub>121</sub> (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 31582-31588 (1997)). Taken together,

10 these results suggest a role for VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 in mediating VEGF<sub>165</sub>, but not VEGF<sub>121</sub> mitogenic activity. The concept that dual receptors regulate growth factor binding and activity has been previously demonstrated for TGF- $\beta$ , bFGF and NGF (Lopez-Casillas et al., *Cell* 67, 785-795 (1991); Yayon et al., *Cell* 64, 841-848 (1991); Barbacid, *Curr. Opin. Cell Biol.* 7, 148-155 (1995)).

15 Another connection between VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 and angiogenesis comes from studies in which NP-1 was overexpressed ectopically in transgenic mice (Kitsuskawa et al., *Develop.* 121, 4309-4318 (1995)). NP-1 overexpression resulted in embryonic lethality and the mice died *in utero* no later than on embryonic day 15.5 and those that survived the best had lower levels of NP-1 expression. Mice overexpressing NP-1

20 displayed morphologic abnormalities in a limited number of non-neural tissues such as blood vessels, the heart and the limbs. NP-1 was expressed in both the EC and in the mesenchymal cells surrounding the EC. The embryos possessed excess and abnormal capillaries and blood vessels compared to normal counterparts and in some cases dilated blood vessels as well. Some of the chimeric mice showed hemorrhaging,

25 mainly in the head and neck. These results are consistent with the possibility that ectopic overexpression of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 results in inappropriate VEGF<sub>165</sub> activity, thereby mediating enhanced and/or aberrant angiogenesis. Another piece of evidence for a link between NP-1 and angiogenesis comes from a recent report showing that in mice targeted for disruption of the NP-1 gene, the embryos have severe abnormalities

30 in the peripheral nervous system but that their death *in utero* at days 10.5-12.5 is most



probably due to anomalies in the cardiovascular system (Kitsukawa et al., *Neuron* 19, 995-1005 (1997)).

VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is associated with tumor-derived cells

5           The greatest degree of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 expression that we have detected so far occurs in tumor-derived cells such as 231 breast carcinoma cells and PC3 prostate carcinoma cells, far more than occurs in HUVEC. The tumor cells express abundant levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mRNA and about 200,000 VEGF<sub>165</sub> receptors/cell (Soker et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). On the other hand, these tumor cells do not  
10   express KDR or Flt-1 so that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is the only VEGF receptor associated with these cells. The tumor cells are therefore useful for testing whether VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is a functional receptor for VEGF<sub>165</sub> in the absence of a KDR background. To date, we have not been able to show that VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 mediates a VEGF<sub>165</sub> signal in tumor-derived cells as measured by receptor tyrosine  
15   phosphorylation. Nevertheless, VEGF<sub>165</sub> might have an effect on tumor cells by inducing some, as yet undetermined activity such as enhanced survival, differentiation, or motility. A recent report has demonstrated that glioma cells express a 190 kDa protein that binds VEGF<sub>165</sub> but not VEGF<sub>121</sub> efficiently (Omura et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 272, 23317-23322 (1997)). No stimulation of tyrosine phosphorylation could be  
20   demonstrated upon binding of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to this receptor. Whether the 190 kDa isoform-specific receptor is related to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 is not known presently.

          VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 may have a storage and sequestration function for VEGF<sub>165</sub>. One might envision that VEGF<sub>165</sub> is produced by a tumor cell and binds to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 on that cell via the exon 7-encoded domain (Soker et al., *J. Biol.*  
25   *Chem.* 271, 5761-5767 (1996)). The stored VEGF<sub>165</sub> could be then released to stimulate tumor angiogenesis in a paracrine manner. Alternatively, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 may mediate a juxtacrine effect in which VEGF<sub>165</sub> is bound to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 on a tumor cell via the exon 7-encoded domain and is also bound to KDR on a neighboring EC via the exon 4-encoded domain (Keyt et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271, 5638-5646  
30   (1996b)). Such a mechanism could result in a more efficient way for tumor cells to attract EC, thereby enhancing tumor angiogenesis.

In summary, we have demonstrated by independent purification and expression cloning methods that the VEGF isoform specific receptor, VEGF<sub>165</sub>R, is identical to NP-1, a cell surface protein previously identified as playing a role in embryonic development of the nervous system and as being a receptor for the  
5 collapsins/semaphorins. Furthermore, binding to VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 enhances the binding of VEGF<sub>165</sub> to KDR on EC and tumor cells.

#### Experimental Rationale

We have discovered that tumor cell neuropilin-1 mediates tumor cell motility  
10 and thereby metastasis. In a Boyden chamber motility assay, VEGF<sub>165</sub> (50 ng/ml) stimulates 231 breast carcinoma cell motility in a dose-response manner, with a maximal 2-fold stimulation (Fig. 15A). On the other hand, VEGF<sub>121</sub> has no effect on motility of these cells (Fig. 15B). Since 231 cells do not express KDR or Flt-1, these results suggest that tumor cells are directly responsive to VEGF<sub>165</sub> and that VEGF<sub>165</sub>  
15 might signal tumor cells via neuropilin-1. Possible candidates for mediating VEGF<sub>165</sub>-induced motility of carcinoma cells are PI3-kinase (PI3-K) (Carpenter, et al. (1996) *Curr. Opin. Cell Biol.* 8: 153-158.). Since 231 cells do not express KDR or Flt-1, these results suggest that tumor cells are directly responsive to VEGF<sub>165</sub> and that VEGF<sub>165</sub> might signal tumor cells via neuropilin-1.

20 The other type of evidence is that neuropilin-1 expression might be associated with tumor cell motility. We have analyzed two variants of Dunning rat prostate carcinoma cells, AT2.1 cells, which are of low motility and low metastatic potential, and AT3.1 cells, which are highly motile, and metastatic. Cross-linking and Northern blot analysis show that AT3.1 cells express abundant neuropilin-1, capable of binding  
25 VEGF<sub>165</sub>, while AT2.1 cells don't express neuropilin-1 (Fig. 16). Immunostaining of tumor sections confirms the expression of neuropilin-1 in AT3.1, but not AT2.1 tumors (Fig. 17). Furthermore, the immunostaining shows that in subcutaneous AT3.1 and PC3 tumors, the tumor cells expressing neuropilin-1 are found preferentially at the invading front of the tumor/dermis boundary (Fig. 17). To determine more directly  
30 whether neuropilin-1 expression is correlated with enhanced motility, neuropilin-1 was overexpressed in AT2.1 cells (Fig. 18). Three stable clones of AT2.1 cells overexpressing neuropilin-1 had enhanced motility in the Boyden chamber assay.

These results indicate that expression of neuropilin-1 in AT2.1 cells enhances their motility. Taken together, it appears that neuropilin-1 expression on tumor cells is associated with the motile, metastatic phenotype.

5 The references cited throughout the specification are incorporated herein by reference.

The present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, this application is intended to cover those changes and substitutions which may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method of diagnosing cancer in a patient, comprising: obtaining a biological specimen; measuring levels of a neutrophilin in said specimen, wherein levels of neutrophilin in said sample greater than a base line level is indicative of cancer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biological specimen is selected from blood, tissue, serum, stool, urine, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid and supernatant from cell lysate.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the neutrophilin is VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 or a homolog having at least about 90% homology to either.
4. A method for prognosing cancer in an individual having cancer comprising:
  - a. obtaining a tumor sample from said individual;
  - b. measuring VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 receptor amounts to obtain a receptor level in said sample;
  - c. correlating said receptor level with a baseline level; and
  - d. correlating levels of receptor greater than the baseline with an indication of unfavorable prognosis and levels of receptor at the baseline or less with a favorable prognosis.
5. The method of claim 1 or 4, wherein the cancer is prostate or breast.
6. A method for determining the metastatic potential of a tumor comprising measuring the level of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 expression in said tumor, wherein levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 in said tumor greater than a base line level indicates an increased metastatic potential.

7. The method of claim 3, 4 or 6 wherein the level of mRNA expressing VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 is measured.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the mRNA is detected by use of an RNA dependent polymerase chain reaction.

9. The method of claim 3,4 or 5 wherein the level of the VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1 or NP-2 is measured.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the mRNA is detected by Northern blot analysis by hybridizing mRNA from said biological specimen to a VEGF<sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 or NP-2 nucleotide probe.

11. A method for measuring VEGF<sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 or NP-2 levels in a non-neuronal tissue which comprises the steps of:

a. contacting a sample or preparation thereof with an antibody or antibody fragment which selectively binds VEGF<sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 or NP-2, and

b. detecting whether said antibody or said antibody fragment is bound by said sample and thereby measuring the levels of VEGF<sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 or NP-2 present.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said antibody, or said antibody fragment, is detectably labeled.

Figure 1

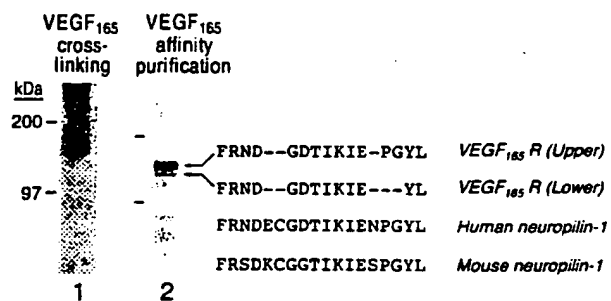
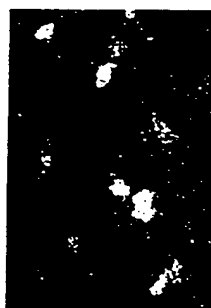


Figure 2A



Figure 2B



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Figure 3

↓

1 HERGLPLLCAVLALVLPAGAFRNDKCGDTIKIESPGYLTSPGYPHSYHPSEKCEWLIQAPDPYQIRIMIN 70  
71 FNPFDLEDRCCKYDYVEVFDGENENGHFRGKFCGKIAPPPVVSSGPFLFIKPVSDYETHGAGFSIRYEI 140  
141 FKRGPESQNYTTTPSGVIKSPGFPEKYPNSLECTYIVFAPKMSEIILEFESFDLEPDSNPPGGMFCRYDR 210  
211 LEIWDGFPDVGPHIGRYCGQKTPGRIRSSSGILSMVFYTDIAIAKEGFSANYSVLQSSVSEDFRCMEALG 280  
281 MESGEIHSDOITASSQYETNWSAERSRLNYPENGWTPGEDSYREWIQVDLGLLRFTAVGTQGAISKETK 350  
351 KKYVVKTYKIDVSSNGEDWITIKEGNKPVLFGGNTNPTDVVAVFPKPLITRFVRIKPATWETGISHRFE 420  
421 VYGCKITDYPCSGMLGMVSGLISDSQITSSNQGDNRNMPENIRLVTSRSGWALPPAPHSYINELQIDLG 490  
491 EEKIVRGII IQGGKHRENKVFMRKF KIGYSNNGSDWKIMDDSKRKA KSFE GNNNYDTPELRTFPALSTR 560  
561 FIRIYPERATHGGLGLRMELLGCEVEAPTAGPTTPNGNLVDECDQANCHSGTGDDFQLTGGTTVLATE 630  
631 KPTVIDSTIQSEFPTYGFNCFGWGSHKTFCHWEHDNHVQLKMSVLTSTGTGPIQDHTGDGNFIYSQADEN 700  
701 QKGRVARLVSPVVYSQNSAHCMTFWYHMSGSHVGTLRVKLRYQKPEEYDQLVMHAIGHQGDHWEKGRVLL 770  
771 HKSLKLYQVIFEIGEIGKNLGGIAVDDISINNHISQEDCAKPADLDKKNPEIKIDETGSTPGYEGEGEGD 840  
841 KNISRKPGNVLKTLDPILIT IIAHSALGVLLGAVCGVLYCAWHNGMSERNLSALENYNFELVDGVKLG 910  
911 KDKLNTQSTYSEA 923



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Figure 4 -

### Comparative Deduced Amino Acid Sequences of Human VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP and VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1

|                            |      |   |      |
|----------------------------|------|---|------|
| VEGF <sub>165</sub> R/NP-2 | 1    | MDMF-PLTW-VFLALYFSRHQVRGQDPDPCCGG-RLNSK--DA-----GY  | 50   |
| VEGF <sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 |      | MERGLPLLCAY-LAL-----VLA-PA---GAFR-NQKCGDTIKIESPGY   |      |
| NP-2                       | 51   | ITSPGYPCDY-PSHQNCZW-IVYAPERNQKIVLNFNPPEIEKHOCKYDF   | 100  |
| NP-1                       |      | LTSPGYPHSYHPSEK-CEWLIQ-APDPYQRIMINFNPHEFLEDRUCKYDY  |      |
| NP-2                       | 101  | IZIRDGDSESAOLLGKHCGNIAPPTIISSGSMLYIKFTSDYARQGAGFSL  | 150  |
| NP-1                       |      | VEVFDGENENGHFRGAFCGKIAPPPVYSSGPFLFIKFVSDYETHGAGFSI  |      |
| NP-2                       | 151  | RYEIFKTGSZDCSKNFTSPNGTIESPGFPEKYPHN-LOCTFTIL-AKPKM  | 200  |
| NP-1                       |      | RYEIFKRGPE-CSQNYTTPSGVIKSPGFPEKYP-NSLECTY-IVFA-PKM  |      |
| NP-2                       | 201  | -EIILOFLIFDLEHD--PLQVGEGD-CKYDWLDIWDGIPHVGPLIGKYCG  | 250  |
| NP-1                       |      | SEIILEFESFDLEPDSNPP--G-GMFCRYDRLEIWDGFPDVGPHIGRYCG  |      |
| NP-2                       | 251  | TKTPSELRSSTGILSLTFHTDMAVAKDGFSAARYLVHQEPL-ENFQCNVP  | 300  |
| NP-1                       |      | QKTPGRIRSSSGILSMVFYTDALAKEGFSANYSLVQSSVSDQFKMEA     |      |
| NP-2                       | 301  | LGMESGRIANEQISASSTYSJGRWTPQQSRLHGDONGWTPNLDNKEYLQ   | 350  |
| NP-1                       |      | LGMESGEIHSDDQITASSQYSTN-WSAERSRLNYPENGWTPGEDSYREWIQ |      |
| NP-2                       | 351  | VDL---RFLTMTATATQGAISRETQNGYYVRSYKLEVSTNGEDWNVYRH   | 400  |
| NP-1                       |      | VDLGLLRFTV---AVGTQGAISKETKKXYVXTYKIDVSSNGEDWITKE    |      |
| NP-2                       | 401  | GKXHK-V-FQAN-HDATEVVLN---KLHAPDLTRFVRIRPQTHSGIALR   | 450  |
| NP-1                       |      | G-N-KPVLFQGNTHP-TDVVVAVEPK---PLITRFVRIKXPATWETGISMR |      |
| NP-2                       | 451  | LELFGCRVTDAPCSNMLGMLSGLIADSEQISASSTQEYL-WSPSAARLVSS | 500  |
| NP-1                       |      | FEVYGCKITDYPSCSGLGMVSGLISDSQIT-SSNQGDRNWMPEIRLVTS   |      |
| NP-2                       | 501  | RSGWF-PRIPQAQPGE---EWLQVDLGTPTKTVKGVIIQGARGGDSITAVE | 550  |
| NP-1                       |      | RSGWALP--P-A-PHSYINELQIDLGEEXVVRGIIIQG--GKHKRENKV-  |      |
| NP-2                       | 551  | ARAFVRKFKVSYSLNGKDWETIODP--RTQQPLFEGNMHYDTPDIRRED   | 600  |
| NP-1                       |      | ---FMRKFKIGYSNNGSDWXMIMDDSKRA--KSFEGNNHYDTPELRTF-   |      |
| NP-2                       | 601  | PIPAQYVRV---YPERWSPA--GI-GMRLEVLGCDWTD SKPTVE--TLGP | 650  |
| NP-1                       |      | P--ALSTRFIRIYPER---ATHGGLGLRMELLGCE-----VEAPTAGP    |      |
| NP-2                       | 651  | TVKSEETTPYPTEEEATECGE---NC-SFE-DDKDLQ-----L----P-   | 700  |
| NP-1                       |      | T-----T--PNGNLVD--ECDDQDANCHSGTGDDFQLTGTTVLATEKPT   |      |
| NP-2                       | 701  | ---S-----GFNCNFD-----FLEPCGWMYD-HA--KW--LRTT        | 750  |
| NP-1                       |      | VIDSTIQSEFPPTYGFNCEFGWGSHKTF---CHWEHDNHVQLKNSVL-T-  |      |
| NP-2                       | 751  | WASSSSPN-DRTFPDDRNFRLRLQSDS-QREGQYARLISPPVHLPRSPVCM | 800  |
| NP-1                       |      | --SKTGPIQDHTG-DG-NFIYSQADENQK-GKVARLVSPVVYSQNSAHCM  |      |
| NP-2                       | 801  | EFQYQATG---G--RGVAL--QVVREASQESKLLWV-IREDDGGGWKHGR  | 850  |
| NP-1                       |      | TFWYHMSGSHVGTLR-VKLRYQKPEEYDQ---LVWMAIGH-QGDHWKEGR  |      |
| NP-2                       | 851  | IILP-SYDMEYQ-IVFEGVIGKGRSGEIAIDDIRI----STDVPLENCME  | 900  |
| NP-1                       |      | VLLHKSLKL-YQVI-FEGEIGKGNLGGIAVDQISINNHISQ----EDCAK  |      |
| NP-2                       | 901  | PISAFAGENFKVDIPEIHERE-G----YEDEIDDEYVDWNSNESSATSGS  | 950  |
| NP-1                       |      | P--ADLDK--KN--PEIKIDETGSTPGYEGEG--EG--DK-NISRKP-GH  |      |
| NP-2                       | 951  | GAPSTDKEKSNLYTLDPILITIIAMSSSLGVLLGATCAGLLYCTCSYSGL  | 1000 |
| NP-1                       |      | VL----K-----TLDPILITIIAMSALGVLLGAVC-QVVLYCACWENGM   |      |
| NP-2                       | 1001 | SSR--SCDTLENYNFELYDG--LKKHVRMNHQKCCSEA              | 1038 |
| NP-1                       |      | SERNLSA--LENYNFELYDGVKXK-XDRINTQSTYSEA              |      |

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Figure 5

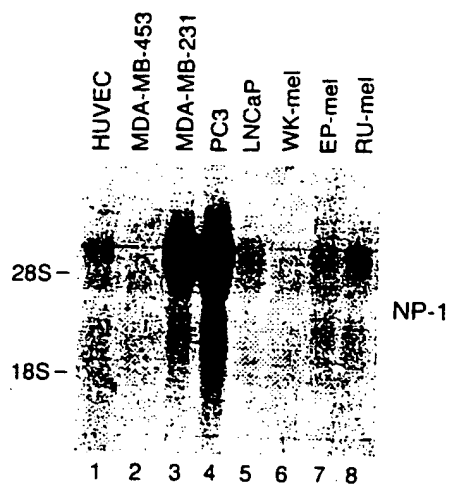


Figure 6

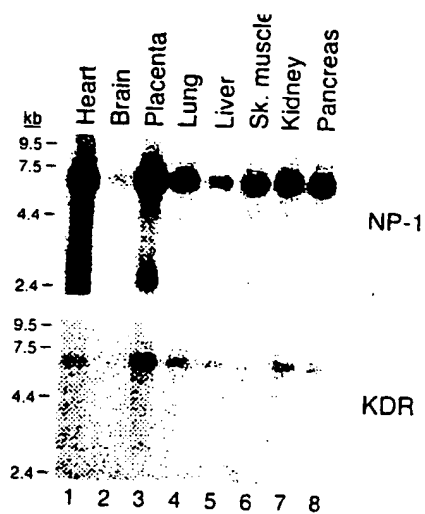


Figure 7A

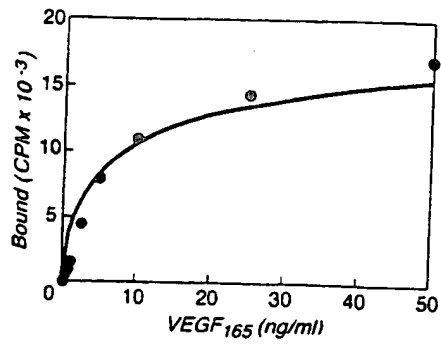


Figure 7B

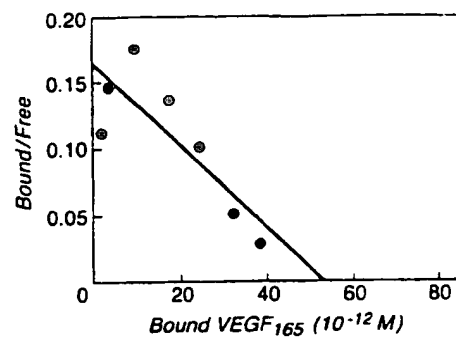


Figure 8

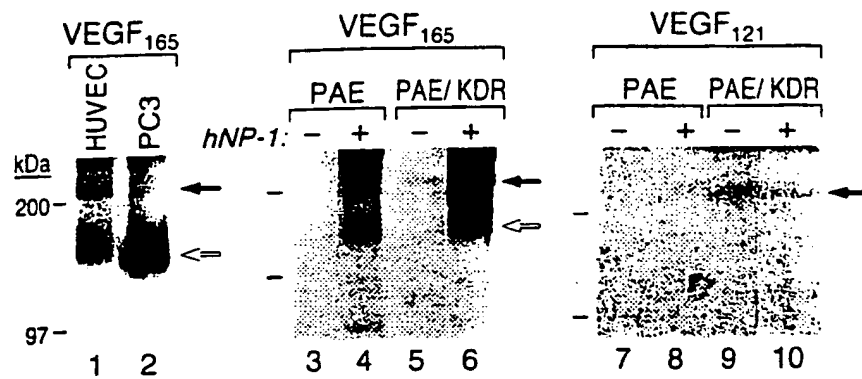


Figure 9

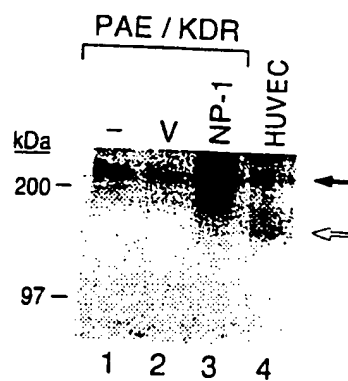


Figure 10

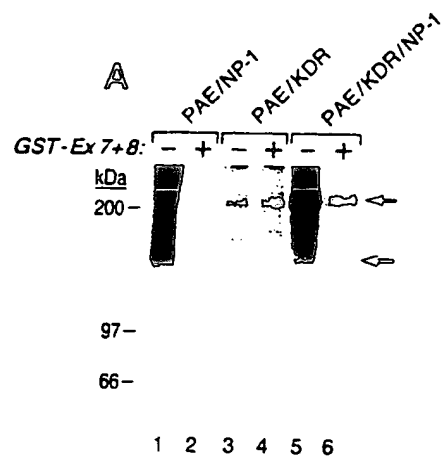


Figure 11A  
KDR alone

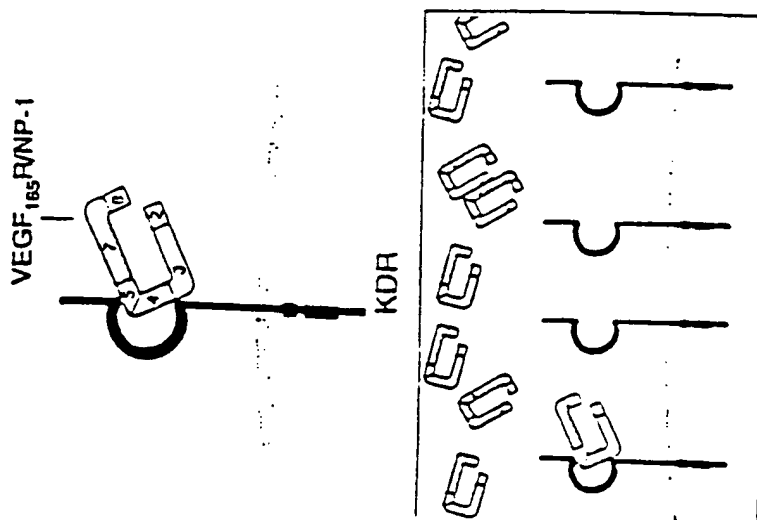


Figure 11B  
KDR + VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1

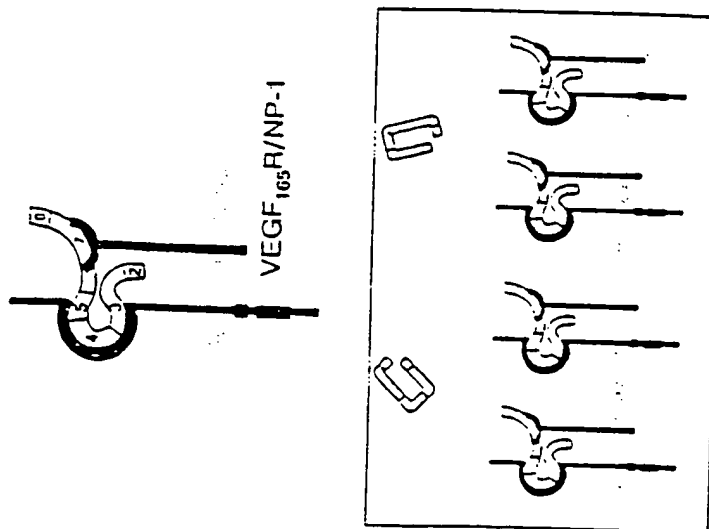


Figure 11C  
KDR + VEGF<sub>165</sub>R/NP-1  
+ Exon 7

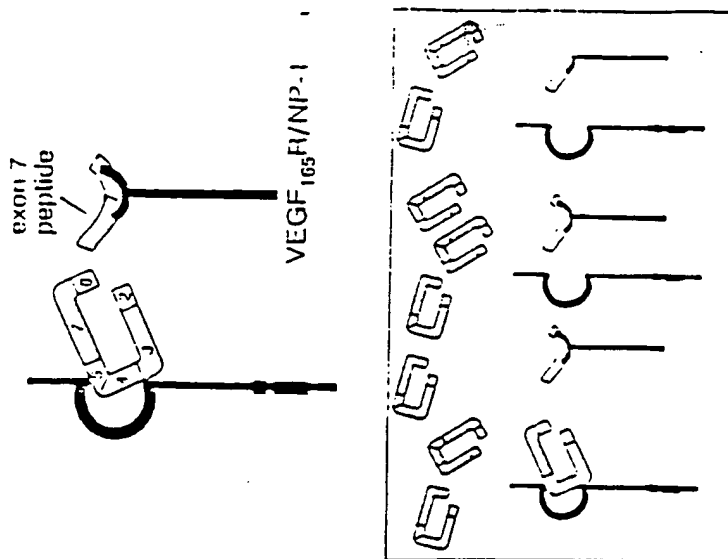


Figure 12

Human Neuropilin-2 amino acid sequence:

MDMFPLTWVFLALYFSRHQVRGQPDFPCGGRLNSKDAGYITSPGY PQDYPSHQN  
CEWVYAPEPNQKIVLNFNPHFEIEKHDCKYDFEIRDGDSE S ADLLGKHCGNIAPP  
TISSGSMLYIKFTSDYARQGAGFSLRYEIFKTGSEDCSKNFTSPNGTIESPGFPEK  
YPHNLDCTFTILAKPKMEIILQFLIFDLEHDP LQVGEGDCKYDWLDIWDGIPHVGPL  
IGKYCGTKTPSELRSSTGILSLTFHTDMAVAKDGFSARYYL VHQEPLENFQCNVP  
LGMESGRIANEQISASSTYS DGRWTFQQSRLHGDDNGWTFNLDSNKEYLQVDLR  
FLTMLTAIATQGAISRETONGYYVKS YKLEVSTNGEDWMVYRHGKNHKVFOANN  
DATEVVLNKLHAPLLTRFVRIRPQTWHSGIALRLELFGCRVTDAPCSNMLGMLS  
GLIADSQISASSTQEYLWSPSAARLVSSRSGWFPRIPOAQPFGE EWLQVDLGTPK  
TVKGVIIQGARGGDSITAVEARAFVRKFVSYSLNGKDWEYIQDPRTQQPKLFEG  
NMHYDTPDIRRFDP IPAQYVRVYPERWSPAGIGMRLEVLGCDWTD SKPTVETLG  
PTVKSEETTTPTYPT EEEATECGENC SFEDDKDLQLFSGFN CNFDFLEEPCGW MYD  
HAKWLRTTWASSSPNDRTFPDDRNF LRLOSDSQREGQYARLISP PVHLPRSPV  
CMIEFOYQATGGRGVALQVWREASQESKLLWVIRE DQGGGEWKHGR IILPSYDMEYQ  
IVFEGVIGKGRSGEIAIDDIRISTDVPLENCMEPISAFAGENFKVDIPEIHEREGYED  
EIDDEYEVDWSNSSSATSGSGAPSTDKEKSWLYTLDPI LITIIAMSSLG VLLGAT  
CAGLLLYCTCSYSGLSRSCTTLENYNFELYDGLKHKVKMNHQKCCSEA\*

Figure 13

|             |             |            |            |             |             |      |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| gaattcggca  | cgaggggaaa  | ataaaagaga | gaaaaacaca | aagattttaa  | caagaaacct  | 60   |
| acgaacccag  | ctctggaaa   | agccaccttc | tccaaaatgg | atatgtttcc  | tctcacctgg  | 120  |
| gttttcttag  | ccctctactt  | ttcaagacac | caagtggag  | gccaaccaga  | cccaccgtgc  | 180  |
| ggaggtcggt  | tgaattccaa  | agatgctggc | tatatcacct | ctcccgttta  | ccccaggac   | 240  |
| tacccctccc  | accagaactg  | cgagtggatt | gtttacgccc | ccgaacccaa  | ccagaagatt  | 300  |
| gtctcaact   | tcaaccctca  | ctttgaaatc | gagaagcacg | actgcaagta  | tgactttatc  | 360  |
| gagattcggg  | atggggacag  | tgaatccgca | gacctcctgg | gcaaactg    | tgggaacatc  | 420  |
| gccccgccc   | ccatcatctc  | ctcgggctcc | atgctctaca | tcaagttcac  | ctccgactac  | 480  |
| gccccgcagg  | gggcaggctt  | ctctctgcgc | tacgagatct | tcaagacagg  | ctctgaagat  | 540  |
| tgctcaaaaa  | acttcacaag  | ccccaacggg | accatcgaat | ctcctgggtt  | tcctgagaag  | 600  |
| tatccacaca  | acttggaactg | cacctttacc | atcctggcca | aaccaagat   | ggagatcatc  | 660  |
| ctgcagttcc  | tgatctttga  | cctggagcat | gacctttgc  | aggtgggaga  | gggggactgc  | 720  |
| aagtacgatt  | ggctggacat  | ctgggatggc | attccacatg | ttggccccct  | gattggcaag  | 780  |
| tactgtggga  | ccaaaacacc  | ctctgaactt | cgttcatcga | cggggatcct  | ctccctgacc  | 840  |
| tttcacacgg  | acatggcgg   | ggccaaggat | ggcttctctg | cgcttacta   | cctggtccac  | 900  |
| caagagccac  | tagagaactt  | tcagtgcgat | gttctctgg  | gcatggagtc  | tggccggatt  | 960  |
| gctaataaac  | agatcagtgc  | ctcatctacc | tactctgatg | ggaggtggac  | ccctcaacaa  | 1020 |
| agccggctcc  | atggtgatga  | caatggctgg | acccccaa   | tggattccaa  | caaggagtat  | 1080 |
| ctccaggtgg  | acctgcgctt  | tttaaccatg | ctcacggcca | tcgcaacaca  | gggagcgatt  | 1140 |
| tccagggaaa  | cacagaatgg  | ctactacgtc | aaatcctaca | agctggaagt  | cagcactaat  | 1200 |
| ggagaggact  | ggatggtgta  | ccggcatggc | aaaaaccaca | aggtatttca  | agccaacaac  | 1260 |
| gatgcaactg  | aggtggttct  | gaacaagctc | cacgctccac | tgctgacaag  | gtttgttaga  | 1320 |
| atccgccttc  | agacctggca  | ctcaggatc  | gcctccggc  | tggagctctt  | cggctgccgg  | 1380 |
| gtcacagatg  | ctccctgctc  | caacatgctg | gggatgctct | caggcctcat  | tcgagactcc  | 1440 |
| cagatctccg  | cctcttccac  | ccaggaatac | ctctggagcc | ccagtgcagc  | ccgcctggtc  | 1500 |
| agcagccgct  | cgggctgggt  | ccctcgaatc | cctcaggccc | agcccggtga  | ggagtggctt  | 1560 |
| caggtagatc  | tgggaacacc  | caagacagtg | aaaggtgtca | tcatccaggg  | agcccgcgga  | 1620 |
| ggagacagta  | tactgctgt   | ggaagccaga | gcatttgtgc | gcaagttaa   | agtctcttac  | 1680 |
| agcctaatac  | gcaaggactg  | ggaatacatt | caggacccca | ggaccagca   | gccaaagctg  | 1740 |
| ttcgaaggga  | acatgcacta  | tgacacccct | gacatccgaa | ggtttgacc   | cattccggca  | 1800 |
| cagtatgtgc  | gggtataccc  | ggagaggtgg | tcgcccggcg | ggattgggat  | gcggctggag  | 1860 |
| gtgctgggct  | gtgactggac  | agactccaag | cccacggtag | agacgctggg  | accactgtg   | 1920 |
| aagagcgaa   | agacaaccac  | cccctacccc | accgaagagg | aggccacaga  | gtgtggggag  | 1980 |
| aactgcagct  | ttgaggatga  | caaagatttg | cagctccctt | cgggattcaa  | ttgcaacttc  | 2040 |
| gatttcctcg  | aggagccctg  | tggttggatg | tatgaccatg | ccaagtggct  | ccggaccacc  | 2100 |
| tgggcccagca | gctccagccc  | aaacgaccgg | acgtttccag | atgacaggaa  | tttcttgagg  | 2160 |
| ctgcagagtg  | acagccagag  | agagggccag | tatgcccggc | tcatcagccc  | ccctgtccac  | 2220 |
| ctgccccgaa  | gcccgggtgtg | catggagtgc | cagtaccagg | ccacggggcg  | ccgcgggggtg | 2280 |
| gcgctgcagg  | tggtgcggga  | agccagccag | gagagcaagt | tgctgtgggt  | catccgtgag  | 2340 |
| gaccagggcg  | gcgagtggaa  | gcacggggcg | atcatcctgc | ccagctacga  | catggagtac  | 2400 |
| cagattgtgt  | tcgagggagt  | gatagggaaa | ggacgttccg | gagagattgc  | cattgatgac  | 2460 |
| attcggataa  | gcaactgatg  | cccactggag | aactgcattg | aacctatctc  | ggcttttgca  | 2520 |
| ggtgagaatt  | ttaaagtggg  | catcccagaa | atacatgaga | gagaaggata  | tgaagatgaa  | 2580 |
| attgatgatg  | aatacagagt  | ggactggagc | aattcttctt | ctgcaacctc  | aggggtctggc | 2640 |
| gccccctcga  | ccgacaaaaga | aaagagctgg | ctgtacaccc | tggatcccat  | cctcatcacc  | 2700 |
| atcatcgcca  | tgagctcact  | gggcgtcctc | ctgggggcca | cctgtgcagg  | cctcctgctc  | 2760 |
| tactgcacct  | gttctactc   | gggcctgagc | tccggaagct | gcaccacact  | ggagaactac  | 2820 |
| aacttcgagc  | tctacgatg   | ccttaagcac | aaggtcaaga | tgaaccacca  | aaagtgtctg  | 2880 |
| tccgaggcat  | gacggattgc  | acctgaatcc | tatctgagct | ttcattccag  | caagaggggc  | 2940 |
| tggggaagat  | tacatttttt  | tttcttttgg | aaactgaatg | ccataatctc  | gatcaaaccg  | 3000 |
| atccagaata  | ccgaaggtat  | ggacaggaca | gaaaagcgag | tcgcaggagg  | aagggagatg  | 3060 |
| cagccgcaca  | ggggatgatt  | accctcctag | gaccgcggtg | gctaagtcac  | tcgaggaacg  | 3120 |
| gggctgtgtt  | ctctgctggg  | acaaaacagg | agctcatctc | tttgggggtca | cagttctatt  | 3180 |
| ttgtttgtga  | gtttgtatta  | ttattattat | tattattatt | atattttatt  | tctttggtct  | 3240 |
| gtgagcaact  | caaagaggca  | gaagaggaga | atgacttttc | cagaatagaa  | gtggagcagt  | 3300 |
| gatcattatt  | ctccgctttc  | tctttcta   | caacacttga | aaagcaaa    | gtcttttcag  | 3360 |
| cctttccatc  | tttacaata   | aaactcaaaa | aagctgtcca | gctt        |             | 3404 |



Figure 14A

|    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 5' | ATG | GAG | AGG | GGG | CTG | CCG | CTC | CTC | TGC | GCC | GTG | CTC | GCC | CTC | GTC | CTC | GCC | CCG | 292 |
|    | M   | E   | R   | G   | L   | P   | L   | L   | C   | A   | V   | I   | A   | L   | V   | L   | A   | P   |     |
|    | GCC | GGC | GCT | TTT | CGC | AAC | GAT | AAA | TGT | GGC | GAT | ACT | ATA | AAA | ATT | GAA | AGC | CCC | 346 |
|    | A   | G   | A   | L   | F   | R   | N   | D   | K   | C   | G   | D   | T   | I   | K   | I   | E   | S   | P   |
|    | GGG | TAC | CTT | ACA | TCT | CCT | GGT | TAT | CCT | CAT | TCT | TAT | CAC | CCA | AGT | GAA | AAA | TGC | 400 |
|    | G   | Y   | L   | T   | S   | P   | G   | Y   | P   | H   | S   | Y   | H   | P   | S   | E   | K   | C   |     |
|    | GAA | TGG | CTG | ATT | CAG | GCT | CCG | GAC | CCA | TAC | CAG | AGA | ATT | ATG | ATC | AAC | TTC | AAC | 454 |
|    | E   | W   | L   | I   | Q   | A   | P   | D   | P   | Y   | Q   | R   | J   | M   | I   | N   | F   | N   |     |
|    | CCT | CAC | TTC | GAT | TTG | GAG | GAC | AGA | GAC | TGC | AAG | TAT | GAC | TAC | GTG | GAA | GTG | TTC | 508 |
|    | P   | H   | F   | D   | L   | E   | D   | R   | D   | C   | K   | Y   | D   | Y   | V   | E   | V   | F   |     |
|    | GAT | GGA | GAA | AAT | GAA | AAT | GGA | CAT | TTT | AGG | GGA | AAG | TTC | TGT | GGA | AAG | ATA | GCC | 562 |
|    | D   | G   | E   | N   | E   | N   | G   | H   | F   | R   | G   | K   | F   | C   | G   | K   | I   | A   |     |
|    | CCT | CCT | CCT | GTT | GTG | TCT | TCA | GGG | CCA | TTT | CTT | TTT | ATC | AAA | TTT | GTC | TCT | GAC | 616 |
|    | P   | P   | P   | V   | V   | S   | S   | G   | P   | F   | L   | F   | J   | K   | F   | V   | S   | D   |     |
|    | TAC | GAA | ACA | CAT | GGT | GCA | GGA | TTT | TCC | ATA | CGT | TAT | GAA | ATT | TTC | AAG | AGA | GGT | 670 |
|    | Y   | C   | T   | H   | G   | A   | G   | F   | S   | I   | R   | Y   | E   | I   | F   | K   | R   | G   |     |
|    | CCT | GAA | TGT | TCC | CAG | AAC | TAC | ACA | ACA | CCT | AGT | GGA | GTG | ATA | AAG | TCC | CCC | GGA | 724 |
|    | P   | E   | L   | C   | S   | Q   | N   | Y   | T   | T   | P   | S   | G   | V   | I   | K   | S   | P   | G   |
|    | TTC | CCT | GAA | AAA | TAT | CCC | AAC | AGC | CTT | GAA | TGC | ACT | TAT | ATT | GTC | TTT | GCG | CCA | 778 |
|    | F   | P   | E   | K   | Y   | P   | N   | S   | L   | E   | C   | T   | Y   | I   | V   | F   | A   | P   |     |
|    | AAG | ATG | TCA | GAG | ATT | ATC | CTG | GAA | TTT | GAA | AGC | TTT | GAC | CTG | GAG | CCT | GAC | TCA | 832 |
|    | K   | M   | S   | E   | I   | I   | L   | E   | F   | E   | S   | T   | D   | L   | E   | P   | D   | S   |     |
|    | AAT | CCT | CCA | GGG | GGG | ATG | TTC | TGT | CGC | TAC | GAC | CGG | CTA | GAA | ATC | TGG | GAT | GGA | 886 |
|    | N   | P   | P   | G   | G   | M   | F   | C   | R   | Y   | D   | R   | L   | F   | I   | W   | D   | G   |     |
|    | TTC | CCT | GAT | GTT | GGC | CCT | CAC | ATT | GGG | CGT | TAC | TGT | GGA | CAG | AAA | ACA | CCA | GGT | 940 |
|    | F   | P   | D   | V   | G   | P   | H   | I   | G   | R   | Y   | C   | G   | Q   | K   | T   | P   | G   |     |
|    | CGA | ATC | CGA | TCC | TCA | TGG | GGC | ATT | CTC | TCC | ATG | GTT | TTT | TAC | ACC | GAC | AGC | GCG | 994 |
|    | R   | I   | R   | S   | S   | S   | G   | I   | L   | S   | M   | V   | F   | Y   | T   | D   | S   | A   |     |

Figure 14B.

|   |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1003  | 1012 | 1021 | 1030 | 1039 | 1048 |
| ATA GCA AAA GAA GGT TTC TCA GCA AAC TAC AGT GTC TTG CAG AGC ACT GTC TCA |      |      |      |      |      |
| I A K E G F S A N Y S V L Q S S V S                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1057  | 1066 | 1075 | 1084 | 1093 | 1102 |
| GAA GAT TTC AAA TGT ATG GAA GCT CTG GGC ATG GAA TCA GGA GAA ATT CAT TCT |      |      |      |      |      |
| E D F K C M E A L G M E S G E I H S                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1111  | 1120 | 1129 | 1138 | 1147 | 1156 |
| GAC CAG ATC ACA GCT TCT TCC CAG TAT AGC ACC AAC TGG TCT GCA GAG CGC TCC |      |      |      |      |      |
| D Q I T A S S Q Y S T N W S A C R S                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1165  | 1174 | 1183 | 1192 | 1201 | 1210 |
| CGC CTG AAC TAC CCT GAG AAT GGG TGG ACT CCC GGA GAG GAT TCC TAC CGA GAG |      |      |      |      |      |
| R L N Y P E N G W T P G E D S Y R E                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1219  | 1228 | 1237 | 1246 | 1255 | 1264 |
| TGG ATA CAG GTA GAC TTG GGC CTT CTG CGC TTT GTC ACG GCT GTC GGG ACA CAG |      |      |      |      |      |
| W I Q V D L G L L R F V T A V G T Q                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1273  | 1282 | 1291 | 1300 | 1309 | 1318 |
| GGC GCC ATT TCA AAA GAA ACC AAG AAG AAA TAT TAT GTC AAG ACT TAC AAG ATC |      |      |      |      |      |
| G A I S K E T K K K Y Y V K T Y K I                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1327  | 1336 | 1345 | 1354 | 1363 | 1372 |
| GAC GTT AGC TCC AAC GGG GAA GAC TGG ATC ACC ATA AAA GAA GGA AAC AAA CCT |      |      |      |      |      |
| D V S S N G E D W I T I K E G N K P                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1381  | 1390 | 1399 | 1408 | 1417 | 1426 |
| GTT CTC TTT CAG GGA AAC ACC AAC CCC ACA GAT GTT GTG GTT GCA GTA TTC CCC |      |      |      |      |      |
| V L F Q G N T N P T D V V V A V F P                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1435  | 1444 | 1453 | 1462 | 1471 | 1480 |
| AAA CCA CTG ATA ACT CGA TTT GTC CGA ATC AAG CCT GCA ACT TGG GAA ACT GGC |      |      |      |      |      |
| K P L I T R F V R I K P A T W E T G                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1489  | 1498 | 1507 | 1516 | 1525 | 1534 |
| ATA TCT ATG AGA TTT GAA GTA TAC GGT TGC AAG ATA ACA GAT TAT CCT TGC TCT |      |      |      |      |      |
| I S M R F E V Y G C K I T D Y   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1543  | 1552 | 1561 | 1570 | 1579 | 1588 |
| GGA ATG TTG GGT ATG GTG TCT GGA CTT ATT TCT GAC TCC CAG ATC ACA TCA TCC |      |      |      |      |      |
| G M L G M V S G L I S D S Q I T S S                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1597  | 1606 | 1615 | 1624 | 1633 | 1642 |
| AAC CAA GGG GAC AGA AAC TGG ATG CCT GAA AAC ATC CGC CTG GTA ACC AGT CGC |      |      |      |      |      |
| N Q G D R N W M P E N I R L V T S R                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1651  | 1660 | 1669 | 1678 | 1687 | 1696 |
| TCT GGC TGG GCA CTT CCA CCC GCA CCT CAT TCC TAC ATC AAT GAG TGG CTC CAA |      |      |      |      |      |
| S G W A L P P A P H S Y I N E W L Q                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1705  | 1714 | 1723 | 1732 | 1741 | 1750 |
| ATA GAC CTG GGG GAG GAG AAG ATC GTG AGG GGC ATC ATC ATT CAG GGT GGG AAG |      |      |      |      |      |
| I D L G E E K J V R G I I I Q G G K                                     |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1759  | 1768 | 1777 | 1786 | 1795 | 1804 |
| CAC CGA GAG AAC AAG GTG TTC ATG AGG AAG TTC AAG ATC GGG TAC AGC AAC AAC |      |      |      |      |      |
| H R E N K V F M R K F K I G Y S N N                                     |      |      |      |      |      |

figure 14b

|   |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| 1813  | 1822                    | 1831                    | 1840            | 1849        | 1858 |
| GGC TCG GAC                                     | TGG AAG ATG ATC         | ATG GAT GAC AGC         | AAA CGC AAG GCG | AAG TCT TTT |      |
| G S D W K M I M D D S K R K A K S F             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 1867  | 1876                    | 1885                    | 1894            | 1903        | 1912 |
| GAG GGC AAC AAC AAC TAT GAT ACA CCT             | GAG CTG CGG             | ACT TTT CCA GCT CTC TCC |                 |             |      |
| E G N N N Y D T P E L R T F P A L S             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 1921  | 1930                    | 1939                    | 1948            | 1957        | 1966 |
| ACG CGA TTC ATC AGG ATC TAC CCC GAG AGA GGC ACT | CAT GGC GGA CTG GGG CTC |                         |                 |             |      |
| T R F I R I Y P F R A T H G G L G L             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 1975  | 1984                    | 1993                    | 2002            | 2011        | 2020 |
| AGA ATG GAG CTG CTG GGC TGT GAA GTG GAA GCC CCT | ACA GCT GGA CCG ACC ACT |                         |                 |             |      |
| R M E L L G C E V                               | P T A G P T T           |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2029  | 2038                    | 2047                    | 2056            | 2065        | 2074 |
| CCC AAC GGG AAC TTG GTG GAT GAA TGT GAT GAC GAC | CAG GCC AAC TGC CAC AGT |                         |                 |             |      |
| P N G N L V D E C D D D Q A N C H S             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2083  | 2092                    | 2101                    | 2110            | 2119        | 2128 |
| GGA ACA GGT GAT GAC TTC CAG CTC ACA GGT GGC ACC | ACT GTG CTG GCC ACA GAA |                         |                 |             |      |
| G T G D D F Q L T G G T T V L A T E             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2137  | 2146                    | 2155                    | 2164            | 2173        | 2182 |
| AAG CCC ACG GTC ATA GAC AGC ACC ATA CAA TCA GAG | TTT CCA ACA TAT GGT TTT |                         |                 |             |      |
| K P T V I D S T I Q S E F P T Y                 | L G C                   |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2191  | 2200                    | 2209                    | 2218            | 2227        | 2236 |
| AAC TGT GAA TTT GGC TGG GGC TCT CAC AAG ACC TTC | TGC CAC TGG GAA CAT GAC |                         |                 |             |      |
| N C E F G W G S H K T F C H W E H D             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2245  | 2254                    | 2263                    | 2272            | 2281        | 2290 |
| AAT CAC GTG CAG CTC AAG TGG AGT GTG TTG ACC AGC | AAG ACG GGA CCC ATT CAG |                         |                 |             |      |
| N H V Q L K W S V L T S K T G P I Q             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2299  | 2308                    | 2317                    | 2326            | 2335        | 2344 |
| GAT CAC ACA GGA GAT GGC AAC TTC ATC TAT TCC CAA | GCT GAC GAA AAT CAG AAG |                         |                 |             |      |
| D H T G D G N F I Y S Q A D E N Q K             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2353  | 2362                    | 2371                    | 2380            | 2389        | 2398 |
| GGC AAA GTG GCT CGC CTG GTG AGC CCT GTG GTT TAT | TCC CAG AAC TCT GCG CAC |                         |                 |             |      |
| G K V A R L V S P V V Y S Q N S A H             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2407  | 2416                    | 2425                    | 2434            | 2443        | 2452 |
| TGC ATG ACC TTC TGG TAT CAC ATG TCT GGG TCC CAC | GTC GGC ACA CTC AGG GTC |                         |                 |             |      |
| C M T F W Y H M S G S H V G T L R V             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2461  | 2470                    | 2479                    | 2488            | 2497        | 2506 |
| AAA CTG CGC TAC CAG AAG CCA GAG GAG TAC GAT CAG | CTG GTC TGG ATG GCC ATT |                         |                 |             |      |
| K L R Y Q K P E E Y D Q L V W M A I             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2515  | 2524                    | 2533                    | 2542            | 2551        | 2560 |
| GGA CAC CAA GGT GAC CAC TGG AAG GAA GGG CGT GTC | TTG CTC CAC AAG TCT CTG |                         |                 |             |      |
| G H Q G D H W K E G R V L L H K S L             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |
| 2569  | 2578                    | 2587                    | 2596            | 2605        | 2614 |
| AAA CTT TAT CAG GTG ATT TTC GAG GGC GAA ATC GGA | AAA GGA AAC CTT GGT GGG |                         |                 |             |      |
| K L Y Q V J F E G E I G K G N L G G             |                         |                         |                 |             |      |

Figure 14D

|             |                                 |                   |             |             |             |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2623        | 2632                            | 2641              | 2650        | 2659        | 2668        |
| ATT GCT GTG | GAT GAC ATT                     | AGT ATT AAC       | AAC CAC ATT | TCA CAA GAA | GAT TGT GCA |
| I A V D D I | S I N N H I                     | S Q E D C         | A           |             |             |
| 2677        | 2686                            | 2695              | 2704        | 2713        | 2722        |
| AAA CCA GCA | GAC CTG GAT                     | AAA AAG AAC       | CCA GAA ATT | AAA ATT GAT | GAA ACA GGG |
| K P A D L D | K K' N P E I                    | K I D F T G       |             |             |             |
| 2731        | 2740                            | 2749              | 2758        | 2767        | 2776        |
| AGC ACG CCA | GGA TAC GAA                     | GGT GAA GGA       | GAA GGT GAC | AAG AAC ATC | TCC AGG AAG |
| S T P G Y E | G E G E G D                     | K N I S R K       |             |             |             |
| 2785        | 2794                            | 2803              | 2812        | 2821        | 2830        |
| CCA GGC AAT | GTG TTG AAG                     | ACC TTA GAT       | CCC ATC CTC | ATC ACC ATC | ATA GCC ATG |
| P G N V L K | T L D P                         | I T I I A M       |             |             |             |
| 2839        | 2848                            | 2857              | 2866        | 2875        | 2884        |
| AGT GCC CTG | GGG GTC CTC                     | CTG GGG GCT       | GTC TGT GGG | GTC GTG CTG | TAC TGT GCC |
| S A L G V L | L G A V C G                     | V V L Y C A       |             |             |             |
| 2893        | 2902                            | 2911              | 2920        | 2929        | 2938        |
| TGT TGG CAT | AAT GGG ATG                     | TCA GAA AGA       | AAC TTG TCT | GCC CTG GAG | AAC TAT AAC |
| W L I I     | C N G M S E R N L S A L E N Y N |                   |             |             |             |
| 2947        | 2956                            | 2965              | 2974        | 2983        | 2992        |
| TTT GAA CTT | GTG GAT GGT                     | GTG AAG TTG       | AAA AAA GAC | AAA CTG AAT | ACA CAG AGT |
| F F L V D G | V K L K K D                     | K L N T Q S       |             |             |             |
| 3001        | 3010                            | (SEQ ID NO: 1)    |             |             |             |
| ACT TAT TCG | GAG GCA TGA                     | 3' (SEQ ID NO: 4) |             |             |             |
| T Y S E A   |                                 | cyto 2            |             |             |             |

Figure 15A

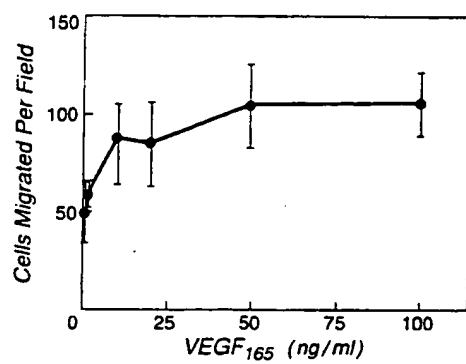


Figure 15B

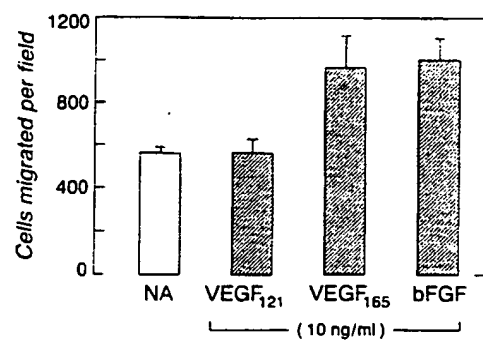


Figure 16A

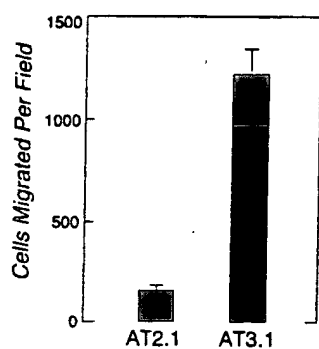


Figure 16B

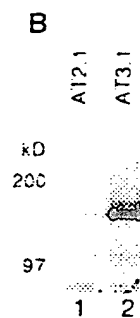


Figure 16C

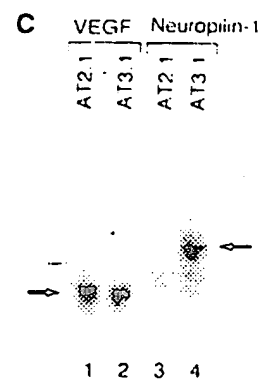


Figure 17A



Figure 17B



Figure 17C



Figure 18A

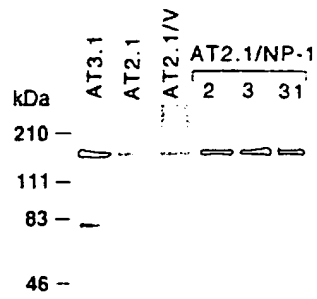
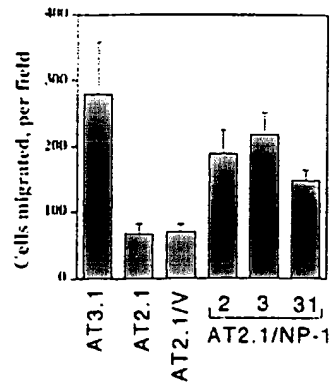
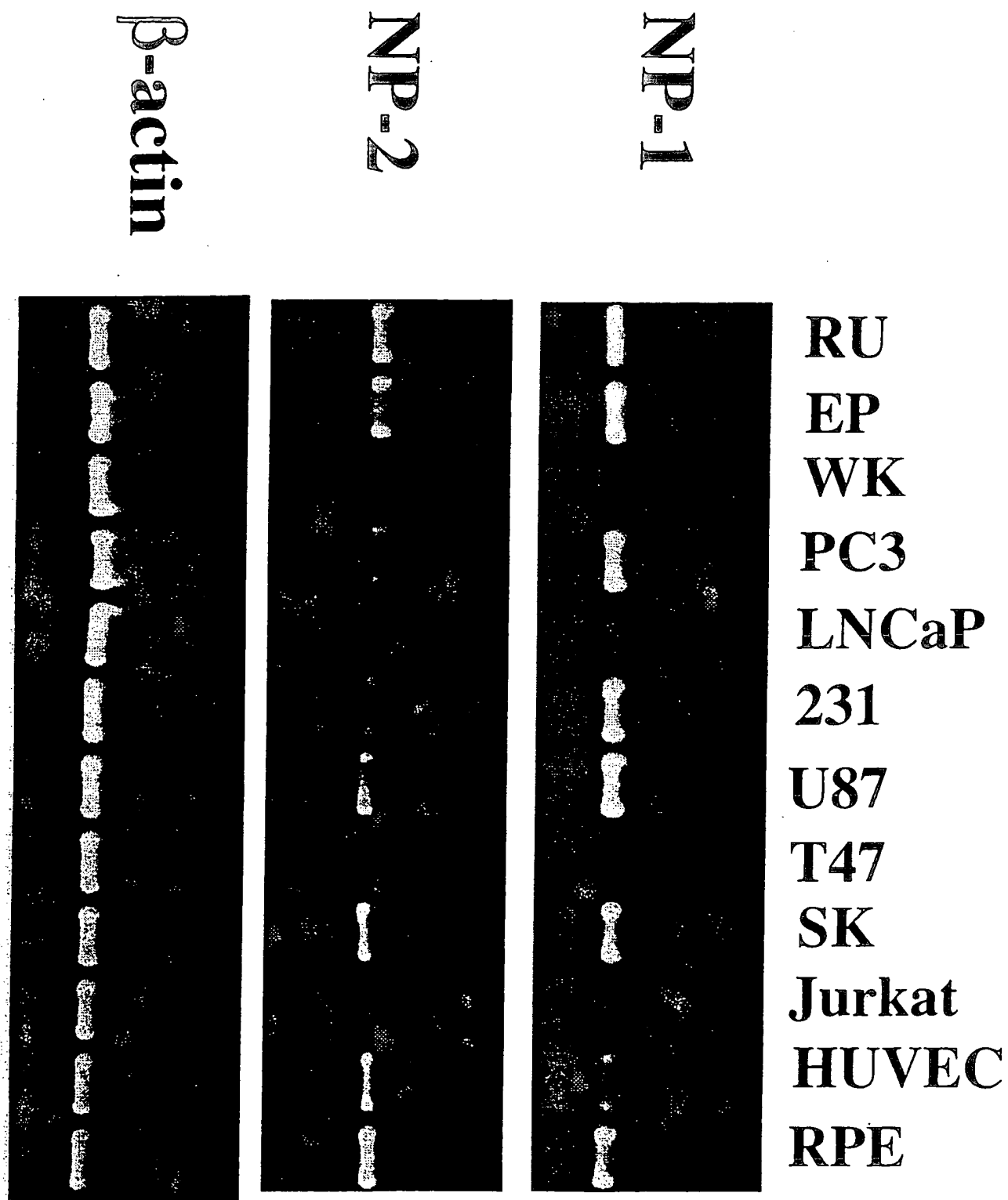


Figure 18B







## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> KLAGSBRUN, Michael  
 SOKER, Shay  
 MIAO, Hua Quan  
 TAKASHIMA, Seiji

<120> NEUROPILINS AND USE THEREOF IN METHODS  
 FOR DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CANCER

<130> 48800

<150> 60/069,155

<151> 1997-12-09

<150> 60/069,687

<151> 1997-12-12

<160> 11

<170> FastSEQ for Windows Version 3.0

<210> 1

<211> 5653

<212> DNA

<213> human

<400> 1

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| agcgttcctc  | tcggtaccag  | gcattgcctc | gctgctttct  | tttctccaag  | acgggctgag  | 120  |
| gattgtacag  | ctctaggcgg  | agttggggct | cttcggatcg  | cttagattct  | cctctttgct  | 180  |
| gcatttcccc  | ccacgtccct  | gttctcccgc | gtctgcctgc  | ggacccggag  | aagggagaat  | 240  |
| ggagaggggg  | ctgccgctcc  | tctgcgcgt  | gtcgcctc    | gtcctcgccc  | cggccggcgc  | 300  |
| ttttcgcaac  | gataaatgtg  | gcgatactat | aaaaattgaa  | agccccgggt  | accttacatc  | 360  |
| tcctggttat  | cctcattctt  | atcacccaag | tgaaaaatgc  | gaatggctga  | ttcaggctcc  | 420  |
| ggacccatc   | cagagaatta  | tgatcaactt | caaccctcac  | ttcgatttgg  | aggacagaga  | 480  |
| ctgcaagtat  | gactacgtgg  | aagtgttcga | tggagaaaat  | gaaaatggac  | attttagggg  | 540  |
| aaagtctctg  | ggaaagatag  | cccctcctcc | tgttgtgtct  | tcaggggccat | ttctttttat  | 600  |
| caaatttgct  | tctgactacg  | aaacacatgg | tgcaggattt  | tccatacgtt  | atgaaatttt  | 660  |
| caagagaggt  | ctgaatggt   | cccagaacta | cacaacacct  | agtggagtga  | taaagtcctc  | 720  |
| cggattccct  | gaaaaatata  | ccaacagcct | tgaatgcact  | tatattgtct  | ttgcgccaaa  | 780  |
| gatgtcagag  | attatcctgg  | aatttgaaag | ctttgacctg  | gagcctgact  | caaatcctcc  | 840  |
| aggggggatg  | ttctgtcgct  | acgaccggct | agaaatctgg  | gatggattcc  | ctgatgttgg  | 900  |
| ccctcacatt  | ggcggttact  | gtggacagaa | aacaccaggt  | cgaatccgat  | ccctcatcgg  | 960  |
| cattctctcc  | atggtttttt  | acaccgacag | cgcgatagca  | aaagaagggt  | tctcagcaaa  | 1020 |
| ctacagtgtc  | ttgcagagca  | gtgtctcaga | agatttcaaa  | tgtatggaag  | ctctgggcat  | 1080 |
| ggaatcagga  | gaaattcatt  | ctgaccagat | cacagcttct  | tcccagtata  | gcaccaactg  | 1140 |
| gtctgcagag  | cgctcccgcc  | tgaactaccc | tgagaatggg  | tggactcccg  | gagaggattc  | 1200 |
| ctaccgagag  | tggatacagg  | tagacttggg | ccttctgcgc  | tttgtcacgg  | ctgtcgggac  | 1260 |
| acagggcgcc  | atttcaaaaag | aaaccaagaa | gaaatattat  | gtcaagactt  | acaagatcga  | 1320 |
| cgttagctcc  | aacgggggaag | actggatcac | cataaaagaa  | ggaaacaaac  | ctgttctctt  | 1380 |
| tcagggaaac  | accaacccca  | cagatgttgt | ggttgcaagta | ttccccaaac  | cactgataac  | 1440 |
| tcgatttgct  | cgaatcaagc  | ctgcaacttg | ggaaactggc  | atatctatga  | gatttgaagt  | 1500 |
| atacggttgc  | aagataacag  | attatccttg | ctctggaatg  | ttgggtatgg  | tgtctggact  | 1560 |
| tatttctgac  | tcccagatca  | catcatccaa | ccaaggggac  | agaaactgga  | tgcctgaaaa  | 1620 |
| catccgcctg  | gtaaccagtc  | gctctggctg | ggcacttcca  | cccgacctc   | attcctacat  | 1680 |
| caatgagtgg  | ctccaaatag  | acctggggga | ggagaagatc  | gtgaggggca  | tcatcattca  | 1740 |
| gggtgggaag  | caccgagaga  | acaaggtgtt | catgaggaag  | ttcaagatcg  | ggtacagcaa  | 1800 |
| caacggctcg  | gactggaaga  | tgatcatgga | tgacagcaaa  | cgcaaggcga  | agtccttttga | 1860 |
| gggcaacaac  | aactatgata  | cacctgagct | gcggactttt  | ccagctctct  | ccacgcgatt  | 1920 |
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|             |             |             |             |             |             |      |
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          50           55           60
Gln Arg Ile Met Ile Asn Phe Asn Pro His Phe Asp Leu Glu Asp Arg
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Asp Cys Lys Tyr Asp Tyr Val Glu Val Phe Asp Gly Glu Asn Glu Asn
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          100          105          110
Val Ser Ser Gly Pro Phe Leu Phe Ile Lys Phe Val Ser Asp Tyr Glu
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Thr His Gly Ala Gly Phe Ser Ile Arg Tyr Glu Ile Phe Lys Arg Gly
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Pro Glu Cys Ser Gln Asn Tyr Thr Thr Pro Ser Gly Val Ile Lys Ser
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Pro Gly Phe Pro Glu Lys Tyr Pro Asn Ser Leu Glu Cys Thr Tyr Ile
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Val Phe Ala Pro Lys Met Ser Glu Ile Ile Leu Glu Phe Glu Ser Phe
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Asp Leu Glu Pro Asp Ser Asn Pro Pro Gly Gly Met Phe Cys Arg Tyr
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          225          230          235          240
Gly Ile Leu Ser Met Val Phe Tyr Thr Asp Ser Ala Ile Ala Lys Glu
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Gly Phe Ser Ala Asn Tyr Ser Val Leu Gln Ser Ser Val Ser Glu Asp
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Phe Lys Cys Met Glu Ala Leu Gly Met Glu Ser Gly Glu Ile His Ser
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Arg Ser Arg Leu Asn Tyr Pro Glu Asn Gly Trp Thr Pro Gly Glu Asp
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Thr Ala Val Gly Thr Gln Gly Ala Ile Ser Lys Glu Thr Lys Lys Lys
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Tyr Tyr Val Lys Thr Tyr Lys Ile Asp Val Ser Ser Asn Gly Glu Asp
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Trp Ile Thr Ile Lys Glu Gly Asn Lys Pro Val Leu Phe Gln Gly Asn
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 Gly Ile Ile Ile Gln Gly Gly Lys His Arg Glu Asn Lys Val Phe Met  
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 Arg Lys Phe Lys Ile Gly Tyr Ser Asn Asn Gly Ser Asp Trp Lys Met  
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 Phe Ile Arg Ile Tyr Pro Glu Arg Ala Thr His Gly Gly Leu Gly Leu  
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 Lys Lys Asn Pro Glu Ile Lys Ile Asp Glu Thr Gly Ser Thr Pro Gly  
 820 825 830  
 Tyr Glu Gly Glu Gly Glu Gly Asp Lys Asn Ile Ser Arg Lys Pro Gly  
 835 840 845  
 Asn Val Leu Lys Thr Leu Asp Pro Ile Leu Ile Thr Ile Ile Ala Met  
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 Ser Ala Leu Gly Val Leu Leu Gly Ala Val Cys Gly Val Val Leu Tyr  
 865 870 875 880  
 Cys Ala Cys Trp His Asn Gly Met Ser Glu Arg Asn Leu Ser Ala Leu  
 885 890 895  
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Asn Gln Lys Ile Val Leu Asn Phe Asn Pro His Phe Glu Ile Glu Lys
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His Asp Cys Lys Tyr Asp Phe Ile Glu Ile Arg Asp Gly Asp Ser Glu
 85          90          95
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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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|---|-----------|---|
| <b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup>:</b><br><b>G01N 33/574, C12Q 1/68</b>  | <b>A3</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/30157</b><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 17 June 1999 (17.06.99)   |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/26127<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 9 December 1998 (09.12.98)<br><br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>60/069,155 9 December 1997 (09.12.97) US<br>60/069,687 12 December 1997 (12.12.97) US<br><br><b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION [US/US]; 320 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 (US).<br><br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> KLAGSBRUN, Michael [US/US]; 22 Berwick Road, Newton, MA 02159 (US). SOKER, Shay [IL/US]; 92 Beals Street, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). MIAO, Hua-Quan [CN/US]; Apartment 8, 50 Babcock Street, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). TAKASHIMA, Seiji [JP/JP]; 1st dept. of Internal Medicine, Osaka University School of Medicine, 2-2, Yamadaoka Suita, Osaka 565-0871 (JP).<br><br><b>(74) Agents:</b> RESNICK, David, S. et al.; Peabody & Brown, 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110-1832 (US). |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AU, CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i><br><i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i><br><br><b>(88) Date of publication of the international search report:</b><br>22 July 1999 (22.07.99) |
| <b>(54) Title:</b> NEUROPILINS IN METHODS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF CANCER<br><br><b>(57) Abstract</b><br><br>The present invention relates to VEGF receptors (VEGFR) and neuropilins such as VEGF <sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 and NP-2 that are associated with metastatic potential of a malignant cell and their use in the diagnosis and prognosis of cancer. Preferred ones are VEGF <sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 and NP-2 but any neuropilin or VEGFR, where the constituents share at least about 85 % homology with either of the above VEGF <sub>165</sub> R/NP-1 and NP-2 can be used. More preferably, such constituent shares at least 90 % homology. Still more preferably, each constituent shares at least 95 % homology.  |           |   |

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|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b><br>IPC 6 G01N33/574 C12Q1/68  |  | International Application No<br><b>PCT/US 98/26127</b>   |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  |  |  |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b><br>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>IPC 6 G01N C12Q C07K   |  |  |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  |  |  |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)   |  |  |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>  |  |  |
| Category *   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.  |
| P, X   | S. SOKER ET AL.: "Neuropilin-1 is expressed by endothelial and tumor cells as an isoform-specific receptor for vascular endothelial growth factor." CELL, vol. 92, 20 March 1998, pages 735-745, XP002097906<br>see the whole document<br>---  | 1-12   |
| Y  | S. SOKER ET AL.: "Characterization of novel vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) receptors on tumor cells that bind VEGF165 via its exon 7-encoded domain" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 271, no. 10, 8 March 1996, pages 5761-5767, XP002097905<br>cited in the application<br>see the whole document<br>--- | 1-12   |
| -/--   |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.  |  |  |
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| Date of the actual completion of the international search<br><br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">19 May 1999</div>   |  | Date of mailing of the international search report<br><br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">01/06/1999</div> |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA<br>European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk<br>Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016   |  | Authorized officer<br><br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Griffith, G</div>                                |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| Y        | T. OMURA ET AL.: "Identification of a 190-kDa vascular endothelial growth factor 165 cell surface binding protein on a human glioma cell line."<br>JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY,<br>vol. 272, no. 37, 12 September 1997, pages 23317-23322, XP002097907<br>cited in the application<br>see the whole document<br>--- | 1-12                  |
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| A        | A. L. KOLODKIN ET AL.: "Neuropilin is a semaphorin III receptor."<br>CELL,<br>vol. 90, 22 August 1997, pages 753-762,<br>XP002084496<br>cited in the application<br>-----   |                       |

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information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/26127

| Patent document<br>cited in search report | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
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